

tion program for our young people. From the outset skeptics voiced their concerns. The emphasis on private sector input to create 10,000 jobs worried student federation leaders across the nation. Those in the business community expressed their concern as well. I am sincerely hopeful that that concern has been overcome. We will have to hear from the Minister in that regard.

Application forms which normally should have been available have not been. That is making it difficult for the businesses to complete the forms and for the community organizations and municipalities to create the jobs which were to be career-oriented. Details were unavailable, indeed often nonexistent. Yet we all remained hopeful. There is clearly a need to create comprehensive, meaningful job opportunities for young people.

As the critic for youth, I have repeatedly stressed the importance of the youth of Canada for the future of our country. The latest Statistics Canada figures show that youth unemployment rose dramatically and is near 17.5 per cent. That is something to be truly worried about, Mr. Speaker. It is of great concern to me. The effects of unemployment on young people have been studied. It remains their chief concern and preoccupation. It has created a situation of moroseness for them. They look at society and ask what their future and potential is and where they are going to go. They are losing hope. We see that with the increase in violence and suicide. We note that with the move to prostitution, drugs and alcohol. I am hopeful that Challenge '85 and the IYY activities that were promised to speak to these concerns will have some impact. The plain fact is that the Government has missed the mark.

Taking a closer look at the various programs which fall under Challenge '85 I see little cause for celebration. Of the several projects, only the Summer Employment Experience Development Program has received even a fraction of the attention and concentration needed to ensure a moderate level of success. At this point only 33,000 jobs have been allocated. That is a far cry from the 95,000 jobs which are needed to enable students to make the money they need to ensure that they can continue their education next year. The fact that the program was announced so late has limited the creativity and input of municipalities and community organizations.

In her announcement of this program the Minister talked about being very creative. She said the program would meet certain enunciated needs of youth. She said she would have a new approach to job creation for students. Instead of offering pre-packaged, federally funded projects which only provide next year's tuition, she said that the Government was challenging its economic partners to come forward with meaningful jobs to improve students' abilities to contribute to society now and in the future. She said that they were working to harmonize the student summer program with those of the provinces

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for maximum benefit to our young people. The need of all sectors of society to contribute to the participation of young Canadians in the mainstream of economic life was underlined by the Minister of State for Youth (Mrs. Champagne).

In reality, the Minister decided that the program should be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis, and the criteria established for career-related jobs result in those which were submitted first being approved regardless of the value of the proposal. If someone was a little late because he or she could not get a form or did not hear the information until later, their good proposal, which would meet the aspirations and needs that were beautifully enunciated and carefully thought out, will not be met as a result of this very poor advice to centres which are administering the program. There have been no guidelines established as to what constitutes a career-related job. This is a very subjective decision which, for the most part, has been left in the hands of local authorities who have been given few, if any, details.

The Student Entrepreneur's Program was supposed to provide \$30 million in loans and cost the Government up to \$7.5 million. The Minister said that the entrepreneurial potential of students would be developed this summer by supporting provincial initiatives which provide them with loan guarantees or loans to start summer businesses. She said that this component will be based on, and where appropriate, meshed with, the successful use of this approach in a number of provinces. The Minister said that up to \$7.5 million of SEED funds would be available for the net cost of providing up to \$30 million in additional loans or loan guarantees.

There is a little problem there, Mr. Speaker. I do not think that DREE got together with the Minister of Employment and Immigration. From what I can gather, that program is not even working. Those students who were planning to undertake student entrepreneurial summer jobs are not able to do so at the moment. The money is still not unblocked. If the money does not go to that program, students are a little late to apply and get involved in something else.

This matter is of great concern to me, particularly with regard to the situation of youth unemployment in the Atlantic provinces. The national unemployment rate is 11.2 per cent. The national rate for the 15 to 24 year age group is 17.5 per cent. However, in Newfoundland it is 39.3 per cent. Almost 40 per cent of all the youth in that part of Atlantic Canada are unemployed. In Nova Scotia, 29 per cent are unemployed and in New Brunswick, 32.2 per cent are unemployed. That is absolutely dreadful. Even when a student wants to move to find another place to obtain work, his mobility grant is cut.