

*Oral Questions*

Could the Minister tell us if the Government is prepared, or when it will be prepared, to introduce measures on the more difficult matters and, in particular, to permit the deduction of losses from professional artistic activities and writing, and the function of self-employment for all performing artists for the purposes of expense deductions? Those are two of the key recommendations which concern practical artists in Canada right now.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member would not expect me to comment on matters which relate to the Budget at this time. The Minister of Communications, the Minister of Finance, myself, and this Government are very committed to Canadian culture. We are aware of the issues which have been raised. I am sure she will get her answer in due course.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE INQUIRY

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, that is not much of an answer. We would be happy to see action before the Budget. It does not have to wait for the Budget.

I would like to deal with another very specific measure. With the arts cut-backs, more and more artists are experiencing long periods of unemployment, yet they do not collect unemployment insurance because of their tax status. Recommendations were made as far back as 10 years ago, which have been studied by her Department, to incorporate artists into the unemployment insurance system. Can we expect action on that point in the near future as the situation for artists continues to get worse, and the periods of unemployment continue to affect more of them for longer periods?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, we are considering a number of policies with regard to the cultural community. I am very happy to report, in light of the fact that we are seeing some economic recovery, that we expect the artistic community to share in that as well. Certainly in my riding we are very aware of the issues which she has raised, and we are very sensitive to them.

\* \* \*

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## NORTH WARNING SYSTEM—PARTICIPATION OF NORTHERN CONTRACTORS

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. What is the Government doing to ensure that Canadians, in particular those contractors and workers living in the Northwest Territories and Yukon, will be able to get maximum benefit from the proposed North Warning System?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, immediately after the announcement of the modernization

program I caused the project manager from the Department to pay a visit to both the Governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, in order to acquaint them fully with the progress thus far and, as far as possible, to anticipate future needs. The problems he raises will be addressed to ensure the largest possible participation of Northerners in all of the projects, wherever they may be undertaken in Canada.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## HOUSING

RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—  
QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of several Ministers, and especially the Minister of Labour who is responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, I would like to direct my question to the Acting Minister or to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, a number of mayors of Quebec municipalities have written to the Minister responsible for CMHC to complain about the cutbacks made in the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. They have also asked for additional funding. I would like to know whether the Minister could inform the House if he is willing to grant additional funding to the Regional Municipality of Arthabaska, the Town of Bécancour, the Regional Municipality of Bellechasse, and the cities of Rouyn-Noranda, Sherbrooke and Rimouski?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question would require the kind of detail which I am sure no reasonable Hon. Member would expect me to have at my fingertips. However, to avoid the necessity of the Member putting it on the Order Paper—where, perhaps, it should probably be—I will draw the matter to the attention of the Minister responsible and see to it that he communicates with the Hon. Member.

[Translation]

**Mr. Malépart:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since the Deputy Prime Minister has promised to speak to the Minister responsible for CMHC—now that the elections in Ontario are over, we can say that thanks to the Minister responsible for CMHC, who cut \$17 million from Quebec's budget and only \$2 million from Ontario's, that the Ontario election cost Quebecers \$17 million—is the Minister going to ask the Minister responsible for CMHC to rectify a decision that was unfair to Quebecers and grant additional funding so that the RRAP program will get at least \$10 million more?