

Private Members' Business

national organization in order to increase penetration of markets in all regions of this country. According to its terms of reference, the centre must primarily respond to the needs of Canadian workers. However, if it can increase sales of its products outside Canada, it will be able to finance its domestic activities. The centre must offer a package of products and services in order to provide for a stable source of financing that does not depend on individual sales. Furthermore, the centre should not create extensive marketing services but make use of its special relationship with other organizations and associations as well as existing distribution channels.

To sum up, the strategies of the centre's business plan are concerned with the products and information services that can be offered by means of compact disc technology. The plan suggests developing existing markets and finding new outlets for existing products. It also emphasizes marketing of safety-related products, suggests offering service packages, where possible, and recommends marketing these through existing marketing channels and through special arrangements with other organizations and associations.

Madam Speaker, it is essential that the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety have a sound, long-term financial base. The Centre's corporate plan established by its board of directors sets forth several strategies to make the Centre self-financing on a businesslike basis in the near future. The plan also contains recommendations on financing the costs of developing products and markets for the Centre, as well as present and future capital costs, and on certain structural changes.

These strategies were based on the principle that they should follow the methods generally accepted in the private sector. Therefore, if the Centre is to operate as a business, it must finance itself like a business, and that is what this government intends. Of course, the Liberals and New Democrats are not used to a concept like "self-financing".

The corporate plan confirms the government's decision that it is quite possible for the Centre to be financially self-supporting within a few years.

Madam Speaker, to further demonstrate this government's commitment to occupational health and safety in Canada and also to assure hon. members, users of the Centre's services and especially employees of the Centre that it will continue to fulfil its important mandate and carry out its activities, the minister has already approached Treasury Board to obtain the funds required for this interim financing. However, the actual amount will depend on a detailed analysis of the implementation plan, in accordance with the government's cost-recovery policy.

The corporate plan states the overall strategies that the Centre must pursue to reach the goal of financial self-sufficiency, but the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety will still have to do a lot of thorough, detailed planning to implement it and include it in the multi-year operational plan to be presented by September 30 of this year.

Madam Speaker, I said that the government intends to put the Centre on a solid foundation and at the same time to strengthen the Centre's impartiality and unique character.

The minister has therefore asked Treasury Board for authorization to lay a solid financial foundation for the Centre and to give it the financial tools it needs to manage its income and expenses properly.

[English]

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, in the few minutes remaining I would like to take the opportunity to put a few comments on the record on this motion that we are debating today. I will read the motion into the record:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of reinstating funding for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

It is important to follow up on the debate on this particular motion. I want to pay credit to our critic who has visited this centre and has invested a considerable amount of his personal time in following this issue. The member for Kootenay West—Revelstoke has put a personal commitment into concerns of this country about occupational health and safety. This is a concern that is directly related to an industry in my area in our province, namely, the forest industry, in which many people are injured.