

The present practice of triple-dipping, which I have spoken about in the past, by securing loans with government, business and personal collateral should be terminated as a result of moving to market rates.

It further states that consideration should be given to a requirement that banks share in the cost of the 1 per cent guarantee fee given that the banks would be the beneficiary of the market rates. I think that is something that definitely should be looked at.

The FBDB states that chartered banks should take on a greater sharing of the risk through an adjustment of the loss ratio, especially in those regions of the country which enjoy economic prosperity and growth.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business recommends that the present 85-15 risk sharing arrangement be adjusted to 80-20 or to 70-30 in areas of economic prosperity. The Small Business Loans Act, it states, could be adjusted to reflect different regional economic circumstances to the risk-sharing ratio by introducing a 90-10 formula. This regional sensitive Small Business Loans Act Program could then be promoted by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Western Diversification Office.

It goes on to tell us that moving away from a system based on grants to one of loan guarantees of government would remove the market-place distortions created by advantaging certain companies in the market area. It states that a system based on loan guarantees would also be less countervailable in the Canada-U.S. free trade context.

Finally, it suggests that the present limit of \$100,000 on loan guarantees, which has been in place since 1980, incidentally, should be increased to \$250,000. It notes that the guaranteed loan programs available to the independent business community in the U.S. has a \$500,000 limit.

I think the last one is a reasonable request, that there be an increase in the lower end from \$100,000 to at least \$250,000. It is not too bad if we consider the upper limits. Certainly, since 1980 we have seen a substantial increase in the cost of living and interest rates which have fluctuated up and down since that time.

Given those situations over the past 10 years, it seems to me, without doubt, that those limits should be raised.

Government Orders

As suggested by the Federation of Independent Business, \$250,000 seems to be reasonable.

Let me move on to some of what the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women has suggested for women entrepreneurs. In its 1988 report, it made nine initial recommendations for aiding women entrepreneurs. Although these are not necessarily all adoptable by my party, we have to look at them in the context of where we want to go in encouraging the small business community under the Small Business Loans Act, the Federal Business Development Act and other legislation.

The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women tell us that it should obtain the funding and resources required, the longitudinal research, on female entrepreneurship throughout Canada. There should be set up a national information centre on female entrepreneurship in order to develop and maintain a data bank containing recent, up-to-date information on business women and their activities.

Second, the advisory council urges governments and financial sponsors to produce documents and information designed for aspiring women entrepreneurs and elementary school children. I think that is a route that we should look at, an expansion into areas that perhaps have not been looked at before. It is interesting to note in reading statistics and in reading some of the material on women entrepreneurs that what it appears happens is that in the male-dominated business world men have a tendency to look and decide that they want to get into one particular area. They then move with that idea into trying to create a market. They often use borrowed money in order to do so. Whereas the statistics seem to show us that the woman entrepreneur recognizes a need and moves in to fill that need and because of the difficulty in borrowing money often uses her own money in getting to where she wants to go in the small business field.

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Statistics also show us that women are more successful. In other words, they have fewer business failures than do men in the small business field.

If we take that as a given, it seems to me that in moving toward equality in all things in this country that we should be encouraging women entrepreneurs