

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, one thing I would like to point out to the hon. member is that at this moment—give or take a few numbers—we have been able to work with the private sector to enrol over 10,000 young people in new internship programs in a wide variety of fields such as horticulture, electronics, car repair, logistics, software development.

We are giving our young people a chance to move from formal schooling into the workplace by giving them real, direct work experience training. That is the heart of our youth strategy. I think it is one of the most successful programs in the world.

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**IMMIGRATION**

**Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, last year only 27,000 immigrants came to Quebec, well short of the expected 40,000. Despite that incredible drop and despite taking a share of immigrants far lower than its share of the population, Quebec will still get \$90 million for immigration or about three times as much per capita as Ontario.

Does the minister of immigration agree it is completely unfair for the federal government to give a province a share of immigrant funding that is vastly disproportionate to the number of immigrants actually accepted?

● (1500)

**Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, as we talked about for some two hours in the standing committee this morning, when we talk of settlement it is not only a question of looking at dollars and cents, particularly with respect to the province of Quebec which has nurtured an agreement over the course of 20 to 25 years where Quebec does settlement very well.

In other provinces, in talking to the Alberta minister responsible for immigration, it is not simply a case where everyone wants the same kind of agreement as Quebec or Ontario. There needs to be some flexibility under the guise of a federal immigration policy to allow enough regional and provincial nuances so they too can articulate the priorities.

It is in that spirit that we will fashion provincial-federal agreements that will work for the benefit of the country in all its regions.

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**CAREER COUNSELLING CENTRES**

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development.

Tomorrow funding will run out for many career counselling centres across the country that give career counselling to

women, immigrants and others who need assistance to find work. At this point staff and clients are in limbo not knowing if these services will continue.

Earlier today the minister said he would like suggestions on helping to get people back to work. Many of these centres have success rates of up to 85 per cent.

Will he commit to continuing funding for these career counselling centres?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know the exact centres the hon. member refers to but as of yesterday I signed off on a number of the career outreach programs that will serve the clientele there.

Clearly as we are going through a transition year moving into the new human resource investment fund there will be adjustments along the way.

If the hon. member has specific centres in mind I would be glad to receive them and I can indicate to her which ones I have already approved.

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**PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY**

**The Speaker:** I draw the attention of the House to the presence in the gallery of Mr. Colin Shepherd, member of Parliament in the British House of Commons and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[Translation]

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs could tell us what is on the legislative agenda for the next few days.

**Hon. Alfonso Gagliano (Secretary of State (Parliamentary Affairs) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, today, tomorrow, that is Friday, and Monday, the first item on the agenda is second reading of Bill C-76 to implement the budget, then, on Tuesday, we will have an opposition day for the Bloc Quebecois.

[English]

On Wednesday we will return to second reading of Bill C-68 respecting firearms. The back up legislation on all days will be Bill C-69, the redistribution bill, and Bill C-75, the farm bill. If not disposed of earlier we expect to deal with these items on Thursday.

There have been discussions among the parties and there has been an agreement that the House not sit on Friday next week.