

*Adjournment Debate*

[Translation]

**Mr. André Plourde (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, I am pleased to remind the hon. member of this government's commitment to all Canadians, including native people.

In April 1989, this government announced the Labour Force Development Strategy.

An essential element of this strategy is the Pathways to Success program and the establishment of native management boards.

The native boards will approve projects for native employment and training, set local, regional and national priorities and ensure that native people's associations are aware of the policy and development of training programs.

The native boards are defining how to develop a greater ability to deliver employment and training services directly. This reflects the principles of the Pathways to Success program and the government's belief that developing the native people's human resources is a priority and is part of this department's commitment to self-sufficiency for aboriginal people.

Some \$200 million a year is available for the next four years to help the Pathways to Success process.

In cooperation with the native boards, we are looking into the employment and training programs and services available to native people.

This is an ideal opportunity for the native community and the government to change its basic working relationship with the native people and adapt to changes in the native communities.

Employment and Immigration Canada and native organizations must co-operate to create a new climate of understanding needed to bring about significant changes in human resource development for all of Canada's aboriginal people, regardless of their background or the region where they live. In this spirit of partnership, many native boards have already been established.

In closing, we are working hard to help all the native groups in Manitoba develop and implement a regional structure for Pathways to Success in that province.

[English]

## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, it was on March 16 that I raised a couple of questions in the House and pointed out that we were experiencing the worst recession in the history of Canada. I asked what the response of this government was to this recession. I was focusing on youth on that particular day.

If we talk to young people today, they tell us there is so much uncertainty that the future is really very bleak.

[Translation]

There is no certainty at all.

[English]

We have an unemployment rate among youth that is almost 17 per cent across Canada. In some cases, it is hovering around the 25 per cent mark. There are over 400,000 young people out of work today as we speak.

Daily, in my constituency young men and women highly motivated and willing to undertake any kind of work activity see me for advice. But there are no jobs. This is a shameful situation.

In February of this year, Canada lost 32,000 full-time jobs and 22,000 of those affected young people. There are roughly 100,000 fewer young people working today than there were a year ago. This is totally unacceptable.

Where are those jobs, jobs, jobs that have been promised by the Prime Minister for this group and for any other age group? The response of the government is cutbacks, cutbacks, cutbacks and inaction or a duplication of what was before. This is simply unacceptable.

Since 1985, 41,000 student jobs have disappeared as a result of this government's budget slashing.

It is important to point out that there is both truth and some exaggeration of truth in what the government has said. I use this analogy: I hire someone for \$10 an hour; I cut their salary by \$2; I am now paying them \$8. If I give them an increase of \$1 an hour, I can then claim that I have given them a 12 per cent increase. That happens time and time again with these particular cuts.