

Oral Questions

completed and submitted as a basis for setting the budgets.

I am assured by my officials that adequate funding will be made available to the Labrador Inuit Association and all other first nations in Canada who require adequate assistance for post-secondary education.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. William Rompkey (Labrador): Mr. Speaker, the problem is the question of timing. Unless the funding is available now, those students will not be able to be guaranteed their seats in this coming semester. It is a question of timing. The funds have to be there now.

Will the minister commit today to ensure that funding is there for those Labrador Inuit young people who want to enrol in this coming semester after Christmas? Will he guarantee that?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, indeed, I can do that.

In fact, the enrolment of Inuit post-graduate students and the university students from the Labrador area has doubled from 85 to over 160 in the present year. We have made commitments confirmed in the last day or two to the effect that funding to the end of January is fully committed and the balance will be available before the end of the school term.

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FORESTRY

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question directed to the Minister of Forestry.

The Commons sub-committee on forestry has recently presented its report to Parliament, entitled *The Forests of Canada—The Federal Role*. The main thrust of that report calls for a national planning vision for Canada's forests, in both economic and environmental perspectives, to be convened through the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers in a partnership approach between federal and provincial governments. I understand that

the federal Minister of Forestry is chairman-designate of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers for the coming year. My question to him is two-fold.

Does the minister subscribe to and support the proposal from the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers to lead in developing such a vision plan for sustainable forestry development in Canada, and what steps will he be taking in the coming months as chairman of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers to initiate such a long-term planning process for both economic and environmental goals in Canada's forests?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, yes, indeed, I can report to the House that we have just completed a very successful meeting with the council of ministers in Halifax.

I can report an excellent spirit of co-operation and a very sincere commitment to the long-term plans and strategies and the principles of sustainable development. Naturally, we would want to focus our attention on the collection and building of a better data base.

As well, I can report to the hon. member that we have committed ourselves to a program last year of holding five regional forums that will lead to a new forest sector strategy by 1992.

In this connection, I would like to congratulate the hon. member and his colleagues for a report that they have just published which will be very helpful in the pursuit of these objectives.

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HEALTH CARE

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. The Quebec government announced on Friday that it wants to levy deterrence or user fees despite clear evidence that such fees serve only to keep the poor from seeking medical treatment.

Under the Canada Health Act, the federal government can withhold federal medicare payments in an amount equal to that collected by user fees.