

Supply

Since 1977, some UI money has been used to train claimants. Last year, for example, 74,000 claimants were trained under Section 26 programs. The strategy proposes to extend the training to an additional 60,000 trainees. Some \$100 million is earmarked for skills training and education upgrading for displaced and older workers. For young people, \$100 million has been set aside for entry level skills development.

Some of the other services to be made available are financial support for administrative course and travel costs, income support, allowance for child care, job search counselling and access to vocational training. This strategy recognizes that training means paying for much more than the cost of taking a course. We have tried to ensure that adequate support is available so that those who need training do not encounter financial barriers.

In addition, the strategy provides \$25 million to help an expected 5,000 claimants relocate. Those who want to travel out of town to look for work or who want to move where job prospects are better will now have income support available. The strategy also encourages those claimants who want to start a business. About \$20 million has been designated to support the entrepreneurial ideas of those receiving unemployment insurance.

As well, some of the unemployment insurance funds have been allocated as incentives for those claimants who find work quickly. This may be in the form of bonuses or temporary earning supplements.

In addition, we are fine tuning certain aspects of unemployment insurance. In areas where there are no more job opportunities, claimants will have to work longer to qualify for benefits and the duration of their benefits will be shorter. But in areas that continue to experience high unemployment, the number of working weeks to collect unemployment insurance will not change.

Canadians are eager to work and contribute to the prosperity of their country. The unemployment insurance changes under the Labour Force Development Strategy mean unemployed Canadians will go back to work faster with the skills that will hold them in good stead for longer than the time needed to qualify for another UI cheque.

As for Canadians receiving social assistance, the Labour Force Development Strategy offers new solutions. Currently, the federal Government spends \$400 million a year on a training program for social assistance recipients. We have been encouraged by its success,

although it has only been in effect since 1986. Under the strategy, however, the federal Government is ready to commit an additional \$50 million together with \$50 million ordinarily spent on income maintenance under the Canada Assistance Plan to train more social assistance recipients for meaningful work. If the provinces agree to match this money, together we will make an additional \$200 million available to help the 20,000 additional social assistance recipients across Canada.

It is critical that government programs reflect today's changing work patterns. In addition to the changes I just outlined, the strategy will provide more training opportunities to employed Canadians. Under the strategy, \$230 million will be directed toward human resource planning and training. Almost half this money will be spent on entry level training to be provided by the private sector.

In recognition of the importance of the school-to-work transition, we plan to quadruple the funds for co-operative education. As well, we are providing human resource planning to industries to help them get ready for the future labour markets. The strategy also doubles funds for the industrial adjustment service. The IAS is our proud example of how labour market adjustment should be done. It works with management and workers to find solutions to obsolete skills, technological change and plant shutdown.

Our Government has tried to cover all the bases. We have analysed our weaknesses and directed our efforts to overcoming the faults. With the help of our partners, there is no question that we will meet the challenges facing this country. Such challenges cannot be met by sticking rigidly to principles or ideas that are no longer relevant.

It is incumbent upon the Members of this House to remain open to new ideas and new schools of thought. While we may all agree on the goals that must be attained, such as the need for more effective retraining and training, we are far from unanimous on the means. The issues are complex and involve all sectors of the labour market. Governments alone do not have all the answers. That is why we recently met with the leaders of 13 national organizations to launch a consultation process on future labour-market programming. These representatives of business, labour and training organization and other interested groups agreed on five key labour, market and training issues which must be addressed. They are entry level training programs for unemployment insurance recipients, human resources planning,