

the Canadian labour force in the 1990s. Such changes are much more than projections now, they are occurring. Overall changes are needed in our way of conducting business.

After the Labour Force Development Strategy was announced, the government invited the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre to undertake consultations to learn about the points of view and concerns of both major labour market components—unions and businesses.

Seven task forces were formed. Each was asked to consider an area in particular: apprenticeship, the training of older workers, the training of unemployment insurance claimants, the training of welfare recipients, and human resources planning.

The task forces have provided us with an entirely new outlook and made a number of recommendations. That is what the government intends to do. We are working in close co-operation with the private sector to take advantage of new opportunities that are open to Canadians. We are rethinking completely our training programs and we are restructuring them according to the recommendations of the working groups.

At the present time, Canada urgently needs a labour force capable of adjusting itself to a changing work environment. Our country depends on trade. Technological and demographic changes are occurring so rapidly that traditional methods are no longer bringing results. Canada is already lagging behind many other countries in the area of worker's skills and training.

Our workers will need to acquire new skills and upgrade those they already have. Meanwhile, the rest of world is making progress. Our competitors are reajusting and restructuring in order to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

To be able to compete against the rest of the world, we need a highly skilled, highly motivated labour force, flexible enough to adapt to any new situation. Our

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economic survival depends on the way we will educate and train our people. One way or another, almost every single Canadian will be affected. This is why we should be redirecting our efforts towards skill development.

This also means that employers will have to get involved more with training. To achieve this, the government introduced Bill C-21 to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act which was finally adopted last October. This legislative measure makes it possible to use part of the Unemployment Insurance Fund money for job re-training.

We wish also to support more and more the training offered by private enterprise. Even if Canadian corporations complain that workers lack the required skills, only 25 per cent of them are providing their employees with training opportunities.

On a *per capita* basis, Madam Speaker, Canadian corporations spend approximately half as much money to train their workers as their American counterparts. In Japan, employers spend three times as much money to train their employees as we do in Canada.

With the amended legislation following the adoption of Bill C-21, the private sector in Canada should be able to at least double—I repeat double—its training effort. On the other hand, as a result of the new measures we can allocate more funds to training programs for Canadians.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I must regretfully interrupt the hon. member. The hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 96(1), this item is dropped from the Order Paper.

[*English*]

It being three o'clock p.m., this House stands adjourned until Monday, at one o'clock, pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 2.58 p.m.