

S. O. 31

awarded the outstanding team award by Employment and Immigration Canada.

The staff of the Williams Lake CEC was chosen as having the best record in providing quality service from among the 41 centres nation wide that were nominated for the award.

Williams Lake CEC has been honoured twice in the past for awards of excellence in claims processing.

I would like to say this to Irene Ainley and her staff in Williams Lake that we always knew you were good. Now the whole country knows.

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MARINE ATLANTIC

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that the subsidies to Marine Atlantic would be frozen for the next two years. This freeze will amount to a \$9 million reduction to Marine Atlantic.

In addition, since 1985, this government has cut Marine Atlantic's budget by \$52 million.

This Crown corporation operates on subsidies and fares, which means that if subsidies are reduced, Atlantic Canadians are faced with increased rates or decreased services. Adult ferry rates have already increased 44 per cent since 1985.

In a province like Prince Edward Island, higher transportation costs mean more expensive consumer goods and less competitive exports.

Islanders may not experience direct tax hikes from this budget, but the pain of budget cuts will dig deeply into everyone's pockets.

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THE BUDGET

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the excellent budget presented by our finance minister yesterday, the expected bluster and hypocritical state-

ments of the provincial finance ministers are not surprising. I refer specifically to Ontario and British Columbia.

The B.C. finance minister has shouted loud and long that the federal government should control our spending and, of course, when we do it, he is the loudest crier.

Federal program spending was restrained to 3.6 per cent over the last five years. That is well below the rate of inflation and it beat Ontario's 9.5 per cent and B.C.'s 6.2 per cent.

The fact is that the federal payments will continue to increase for British Columbia at 2.5 per cent a year. The effect of the change is only .8 per cent to the B.C. budget.

It has been very easy for the provinces to balance their budgets when the feds pay the mortgage.

As our finance minister has stated: "The provinces are part of the problem: The provinces must be part of the solution".

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THE BUDGET

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, some months ago the premier of British Columbia, Bill Vander Zalm, called for a 25 per cent cut in federal spending. Last night he almost got his wish.

That budget hurt families in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada. The best example of that is in housing. The Canadian federal government last year funded the production of 16,000 social housing units at a cost of \$100 million. Yesterday's budget contains a cut of 15 per cent—\$51 million over the next two years.

This is disastrous for families in Canada in the big urban centres. They cannot get housing. It is a double whammy, because no one believes the 11 per cent rate of interest. My constituents are paying 13 per cent to renew their mortgages.

When the electors get to Bill Vander Zalm and Brian Mulroney, they are going to give them a choice of housing. They are going to send them back to Fantasyland.