

The Sub-Committee also recognizes that in the 1980s, virtually all net jobs created were in the service sector; by 1988, 71% of all workers were employed in the service sector. This growth in employment has been characterized by the creation of either highly-skilled jobs which are well-compensated and secure, or are unstable and relatively poorly paid, with low skill requirements and few opportunities for advancement. If Canadian families are to prosper, it is the secure and well-compensated jobs on which employment creation efforts must focus. The Sub-Committee notes that these jobs will require highly-skilled workers, and believes that an increased emphasis on basic education, and occupational training programs, will yield workers with the necessary level and type of skills required.

Recognizing the importance of employment income for a family's financial security, and training efforts to ensure that Canadians have the skills needed to compete globally, the Sub-Committee recommends that:

- B7 the Federal Government change the name of the Unemployment Insurance program to the Employment Insurance program and continue such policy initiatives as the re-allocation of Unemployment Insurance funds to mobility assistance, the purchase of training courses and business start-up funds for Unemployment Insurance recipients.**
- B8 the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments work together with employers, unions and employees continue to develop high quality occupational training and apprenticeship programs designed to improve productivity and adaptability to new technology.**
- B9 the Federal Government continue its employment creation efforts through actions that ensure an economic climate in which job creation occurs and through the securing of a favourable trade position in the international marketplace.**
- B10 the Federal Government focus its efforts on initiatives to create secure jobs with opportunities for promotion and good compensation, and accessible to Canada's poor.**

It is the Sub-Committee's belief that enhanced competitiveness will lead to increased employment opportunities. In conjunction with education and training efforts, these opportunities should enable some Canadians to leave social assistance. Such a change could be advantageous for a variety of reasons. For example, the school performance of children could improve. The *Ontario Child Health Study* found that girls whose families were on social assistance had 3.9 times the rate of poor school performance relative to that of girls not on social assistance; the comparable rate for boys was 1.4 times.¹⁶⁴ Further, among children in families on social assistance, the prevalence of psychiatric disorder, at 31.2%, was more than twice the 13.8% rate for families not on social assistance, although the Study did note that 68.8% of children in families on social assistance were free of psychiatric disorder.¹⁶⁵ However, much of the strength of the relationship between psychiatric disorder and social assistance is accounted for by family dysfunction and, in particular, low income.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁴ Dr. Dan Offord, *et al.*, p. 1.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*