

*Adjournment Debate*

With respect to the financial problems affecting the schools administered by the bands, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is defining comparability in the field of education on the basis of the impact of schooling on the educational level of people whose culture, language and capabilities are different. This modern concept emphasizes the comparability of results and the social and economic fall-outs.

However, there are urgent problems which need to be solved. We recognize the fact that providing comparable services and obtaining comparable academic results depend on certain unique factors which represent the most important challenge for schools placed under the authority of the bands and those under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. Among these factors, there is the fact that most Indian schools are small and that many of them are located in isolated areas which are often accessible only by plane; there are also cultural and especially linguistic factors which require the development of special programs and the hiring of teachers with the proper qualifications.

During the last few months, the Department and the Indian leaders have examined the present situation in the field of

education and they have agreed that much remains to be done in terms of program development, personnel retraining, special programs aimed at exceptional students, school facilities and global management framework. Some problems are fundamentally structural ones and will be resolved in the longer term within the bilateral process and through the Assembly of First Nations' Secretariat.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. John Munro, has initiated the process with a view to obtaining the funding required to address the more immediate problems that were underlined by the Indian authorities responsible for education and by the regional representatives of the Department. In initiating this action, the Minister has set up a goal consistent with one of the fundamental values of Canadian society, that is, equal access to education as a basic right for all citizens.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order.

At 6.24 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

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END OF VOLUME III