

*Private Members' Business*

able to come to some agreement that the two years should be credited. The point that I want to make is that I am not sure this should have occurred in the first place. In fact, I am quite convinced that it should not have happened.

I am somewhat disappointed that initially the student would have had those difficulties and had someone not been able to intervene on her behalf, those difficulties in all probability would have continued.

*[Translation]*

As for community colleges, there are problems there as well. I know many cases where, for instance, a student had completed a number of credits which he had to transfer to another institution, another community college, where he would be in the same program, and it turned out that not all his credits were accepted by the college where he was going.

There is a community college that offers a three-year program in technology. A student who goes on to university in that field and wants to become an engineer is credited two years at the university level for his three years at community college. In some cases they are credited nothing. They have to go back and start from the very beginning, as though they had done nothing at all. I think that is very unfair.

*[English]*

As well there is the whole question of independent religious degree-granting institutions. They offer arts degrees as one example and in one province this is the situation. One university will not accord any credits at all because supposedly this degree is not from a recognized institution. I understand why they do that. However, at another university, in the same province a substantial number of credits are given. At a third university, under certain conditions, all credits are accepted. This is happening within the same province where one case is treated differently by three parties and which has a significant impact on the student that is involved.

Let me tell you a personal anecdote. An individual who was an outstanding graduate from one of the Bible colleges that I know received a degree with outstanding marks. This person wanted to obtain a masters degree at one of the universities in the province. They looked at his credentials and said, "No. It is not possible because you do not have an undergraduate degree from a recognized university". The student was not to be put

off. He decided to go to the United States and register in a prestigious university there, was admitted to a masters program, completed the masters program with outstanding marks, came back to Canada, and wanted to register in a doctoral program. Everything was going well until the receiving university noted that he did not have a recognized undergraduate degree. At this point he was not admitted to the program until a significant amount of discussion took place. Even then there was great reluctance in admitting this particular student.

Clearly, situations like that are inappropriate. They cause a lot of confusion, a lot of frustration, a lot of anger. Surely we can come up with something that is more rational, that is simpler, that is better, that is more easily understood.

There is the whole notion of work experience as well. Some of you will know that at both the university and college level, work experience that is related or relevant is accepted as part of the degree or diploma that one is following. However, it is not always the case. Surely if work experience is relevant in certain situations, why is not relevant in others? If it can count in one particular college or university, why should it not count in another?

Let me give you the example. A gentleman had worked over 20 years in developing nations. Obviously during the 20 years he had acquired a lot of expertise, was a recognized expert in the field with developing nations, was a keynote speaker at a great number of conferences and was also a prolific writer, published in journals and in other publications. Yet when that person wanted to undertake an undergraduate degree, he was told that he had to start at the very same place as everyone else. I find this unacceptable. Surely the person, in those 20 years of dedicated and successful service, had accomplished a great deal. The truth of the matter is he was able to find a university that was willing to give him some credit towards his degree.

• (1320)

It would be unfortunate if I were to give the impression that there has not been a start in this area because there has been an important one. There has been established the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials. Some of you will know that Canada has formally accepted the UNESCO Convention on recognition of studies, degrees and diplomas concerning higher education in the states belonging to the Europe region. This organization focuses on the co-ordination and facilitation of the flow of information regarding