

people who face significant barriers in securing and maintaining employment.

In particular, job entry serves people who have been termed "severely employment disadvantaged". These are people who have had difficulty entering the job market because of functional illiteracy, poor social and communication skills, motivational problems and poor work habits, or people who have been institutionalized for long periods and have difficulties adjusting to the realities of the world of work. Special assistance is provided to people whose disabilities have been a barrier to entering the workforce. Funding may be used to provide services such as sign language interpretation, Braille reader services, or the provision of information on audio cassette.

The various components of the Canadian Jobs Strategy provide help where it is most needed and many of the objectives in the various components of CJS have, in fact, been exceeded. However, the willingness of the provincial and territorial governments to join with the federal Government in using CJS to enhance the employability of social assistance recipients is probably the best testimony to the usefulness of CJS programs. All provinces have entered into CJS agreements with the federal Government since the policy was first introduced. Mr. Speaker, the program is a great asset to my constituency of Okanagan Centre. Considering the results that CJS programs are generating, the eagerness of the provinces to join forces with the federal Government is understandable.

All participants in the various CJS programs are surveyed three months after they leave their project or training course. They are asked whether they found a job and whether the training provided under CJS was relevant to that job. Mr. Speaker, the results of our latest surveys are most encouraging. What is most encouraging is the "impact rate" of the CJS programs. The "impact rate" refers to the percentage of participants who are either employed or involved in further training three months after their involvement with CJS. Job entry was found to have an impact rate of more than 60 per cent and the skill utilization rate, or the percent-

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age of participants using skills acquired during the job entry, was more than 64 per cent.

These CJS programs are already having an impact in the job market and as time goes by I am certain they will have an even greater influence for the good of the participants. The economic prospects for the people targeted under the Canadian Jobs Strategy clearly rest on our ability to train and equip them to enter a highly competitive job market. If we skimp on the investment in human capital that the CJS represents, they will likely never be able to secure lasting employment. The Canadian Jobs Strategy is a human capital investment that we all can be proud of.

• (0050)

It represents a major commitment to job training and retraining of the Canadian workforce. The changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act are designed to direct more resources to such training and retraining measures. Three hundred and fifty million dollars more will be available for training UI recipients for the job market. With the Labour Force Development Strategy, we have dedicated \$100 million for entry level skill development to help people get into the labour market, an additional \$15 million to an industrial adjustment service, to assist firms and workers facing major changes due to technological reorganizations, an additional \$50 million for the community futures program, which is now being implemented in my riding of Okanagan Centre, an additional \$50 million for social assistance recipients, and \$100 million for displaced older workers, and the list goes on and on. Hon. Members are surely familiar with it.

The new improvements to the Unemployment Insurance Program maintain the existing safety net. They improve special benefits to certain target groups like older workers. Most important, they devote needed resources to the preparation of the unemployed for labour market opportunities they never dreamed possible. In other words, we are providing a foundation for building a strong and competitive future for Canada and my riding of Okanagan Centre.

Currently, older workers have access to EIC programs and services through the Canadian Jobs Strategy and employment services. In November, 1988, the Minister announced new services tailored to older workers. In my riding of Okanagan Centre, we have a lot of older workers. I am proud to be able to tell you about this