

future and who want jobs. This is our role and our responsibility, but it is also a pleasure to do so.

What we want is for our young people to gain some work experience during the summer. The government spends money to that end. This year the budget was increased by \$5.4 million over last year. The better part of this increase was targeted at the main option, which is the work experience. This summer through its programs the government will provide \$88 million in salary subsidies to employers. This is one way of acknowledging the needs of young people.

We must also look after other needs. We are very aware of the fact that in our cities, young people are very concerned about illiteracy, drug abuse, alcohol, AIDS, the environment and crime. Those are important issues. They are important to young people, to communities, and it may also be important to give them some priority when we review projects.

There is among our youth a group which prefers to be self-employed. Indeed, one can already be an entrepreneur at that early age. Consequently, there is a government program called the student venture program. It is intended to help those who want to fly on their own. It is one area where there has been an increase. This year the budget will be \$1.14 million.

• (1710)

Since 1985, when that part of the program was created, the number of projects submitted has increased from 101 to 995. The number of jobs created has increased 1,000 per cent, so to speak, even if it may seem overstated, from approximately 100 to over 2,000. I think it is important to realize that, in many cases, young people like being their own employers and that there is a growing interest for such a program.

Arrangements for youth development were also made with some Canadian provinces. I have a list here of agreements entered into with New Brunswick and Newfoundland as part of the youth strategies calling for concerted measures to meet the needs of youth in both provinces. Under these agreements, the federal government will provide over \$27 million to meet its commitments to the provinces. The projects arising from these

### *Supply*

agreements for the fiscal year 1988-89 are models of co-operation.

In New Brunswick the access centres established throughout the province have served more than 17,000 young people. In Newfoundland the federal government has worked together with the provincial government to sponsor projects. These projects called upon the ideas and expertise of community groups, employers and teachers. In Newfoundland 9,000 young men and women were directly involved in these projects, while 50,000 others benefited from the programs and services sponsored under the federal-provincial agreement.

There are many more programs I could mention in support of the government's continuing commitment to meeting the needs of young Canadians. Other components of Challenge '93 come to mind, such as the assistance provided to the co-operative education program or to the many Canadian Jobs Strategy events.

All these initiatives are designed to make it easier for young people to enter the Canadian labour force, which is changing greatly and will continue to change in this decade and into the next century. The basic objective of all youth initiatives is to help young Canadians make a successful transition from school to the working world.

By using a strategy based on partnership the government will make optimal use of public funds. Surely the people of Canada would settle for nothing less. We must ensure that governments' commitment to young Canadians will be lasting. We must ensure that commitment is met in collaboration with the provinces, labour and the working world, so that everything done to help young people succeed will be as effective as possible.

[*English*]

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I compliment my colleague for her excellent review of those programs that her government has implemented over the last several years in order to correct a problem that we are facing today. I do not think this country has faced since 1958, 1959 and the early 1960s the tremendous unemployment with our young people in the work force today.