

The Budget

depend on the Daily Bread Food Bank, an appalling number of whom are children.

For us to move ahead as a nation we must ensure those without a voice, those who have fallen through the cracks, are not left behind. We must give Canadians the tools to realize their potential and their dreams and thereby fulfil Canada's. That is this government's goal.

The budget is the first step in achieving that goal by laying the basis for tomorrow's prosperity. In order to achieve this we must harness the initiative and creative talents of all Canadians.

• (1620)

The key to the success of Canada's economy is our small and medium sized businesses. There are over 900,000 of them across the country. If we as a government as we have started to do in the budget establish the proper framework for our small and medium sized businesses so that each of these businesses can hire just one person, many of our economic problems would be solved and the government would have a net gain of \$18 billion from direct employment alone.

What small businesses need to achieve this is access to capital. The banks' rigid lending formulas and the arbitrary cancelling of lines of credit are cracking the backbone of our economy. Every time we allow a small business to close we not only lose jobs; we kill a dream. It is time Canadian banks recognize their responsibilities as partners in the development and growth of Canada's economy. Canadians through the Bank Act have given the banks special privileges. Canadians expect them to do more. We will work to achieve it.

The first step, as mentioned in the budget, was to establish a task force that would develop a code of conduct for small business lending. Small businesses also need access to the emerging new global economy to survive and grow. The opening of foreign markets to Canadian business will provide unprecedented opportunities for growth. Canada's cultural diversity, coupled with its entrepreneurial spirit, gives our country a unique advantage in this highly competitive world.

This government is going to play its role. Our international network of embassies and trade officers will provide a pro-active, ongoing link to these exciting new export markets. The economic engines of the future are the emerging technologies of today. We must participate fully in the technological revolution and be at its leading edge.

Through increased funding for the National Research Council and the technology partnership program, government will bring together our research institutions and the private sector to capitalize on the innovations of Canadians in such fields as environment, health care, biotechnology and telecommunications. In some of these fields we are already world leaders.

By the year 2000 environmental technology sales alone will be worth approximately \$580 billion a year. We have great opportunities. The government's task is to ensure that Canadians have the capacity to meet these new challenges.

Let me give an example from my own riding. At Central Technical High School a partnership has already been forged between the school and the Canadian Tire Corporation. In the past Canadian Tire could not find graduates trained in computer based auto repair. To help remedy this situation they provided the school with \$200,000 of equipment to modernize the auto mechanics teaching facility. Because of this, graduating students will now enter the workforce with the most up to date skills and Canadian Tire will not have to look abroad to fill the jobs.

We must keep up with technological change, not only in our educational facilities but also in the workforce and the workplace. We must use new technologies to reinvigorate our existing industries. As an example, Spadina Avenue has historically been synonymous with the fashion industry in Canada. Today, to remain competitive, this industry must embrace new approaches to design and manufacturing. By drawing on the creative talents of designers and by utilizing the most modern computer assisted systems we can put Toronto once again back on the leading edge of the global fashion industry.

It is only through this kind of creative leadership that we can accomplish these changes. The budget will help in the required transformation.

However economic growth is not just a matter of exporting abroad. It is drawing on the strengths we already have. In Trinity—Spadina we know first hand the benefits that can come from expanding tourism. Trinity—Spadina is home to many of Canada's most unique tourist attractions. From the art galleries and the museums to the theatres and the bistros, from the SkyDome to Ontario Place, from the CN Tower to Harbourfront Centre, millions of visitors come to my riding to enjoy music, art, theatre, history and sport. We must take advantage of this resource. Governments and business must work together to expand this industry by letting the world know of our treasures. These resources must be aggressively marketed. Tourism is a form of export. The difference is that foreign customers come here and leave their money behind.

• (1625)

I draw the attention of members to a potential infrastructure project in my constituency which will provide much needed construction jobs and will advance the long-term goals I have described. I am referring to the establishment of the World Trade Centre at Exhibition Place or the expansion of the Toronto Convention Centre. Either of these facilities would provide Canada with a venue that would allow us to compete with convention centres around the world. By drawing these shows to Canada we could help small and medium sized businesses bring