

*Supply*

past—then please help yourselves. Help me to make sure that you can continue to provide the very essential service that you always have because you know there was a time not that long ago when that gang was in office and you got nothing.

**Ms. Langan:** Not true.

**Ms. Clancy:** You're rewriting history.

**Mr. Weiner:** We recognize the importance of what you are doing. Frankly, I am saying that I am here to help you complete the applications.

We had an example concerning Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. I received an application on Tuesday. We approved it Wednesday. The cheque was delivered.

**Ms. Langan:** It was a Tory riding, too.

**Mr. Weiner:** What better way can there be of guaranteeing continuity?

In addition, with respect to Newfoundland I was so thrilled that I received three pages faxed to me of new-found supporters of the women's centres, some of them putting money in envelopes.

I said: "Look at what we have done, look at the benefit. A coalition of Canadians, governments at all levels, private and public sector, all interested finally in guaranteeing the sustenance and the future growth and support of the women's centre. Look how important it has become now".

I will tell you, Madam Speaker, never will anybody trivialize an activity. We have the commitment of the whole community. This is Canada speaking. Wake up to the benefit of what is taking place.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Madam Speaker, since the minister is obviously telling us this morning that project funding has turned into core funding—only the names have been changed to protect the innocent—I wonder if he could tell us if everyone who got funding under core funding is now going to get funding under project funding. What is going to happen to the people under project funding? Has the pie increased? Have we got so much money now that you are just changing the names? What is the story?

**Mr. Weiner:** I thank the member for allowing me another moment or two for further clarification, Madam Speaker. I tell you the first requirement of having an application approved is to complete the application form.

**Ms. Clancy:** We knew that.

**Mr. Weiner:** As far as we are concerned, our officers from coast to coast at the most senior level have been open and willing to do this seven days a week. I think it is very well recognized by the centres, and in particular the women from coast to coast, how able we are to do that. As far as I am concerned, as quickly as the applications are completed projects will be approved and the money will flow.

**Ms. Clancy:** I didn't ask that question.

**Mr. Weiner:** I am waiting very, very patiently for all of the applications. I do not open files. There is opportunity now from coast to coast. New program funding is available. Our officers stand by ready and willing as they always have to be helpful. As I have indicated, they are recognized to be the most helpful people anywhere in the country.

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he has talked directly to women who are working in women's centres, particularly the women in St. John's, Newfoundland, and British Columbia who have been so concerned and who have been trying to meet with him through the office of the Secretary of State. As well, has he talked to the women in the Yukon and those women who are facing the closure of centres? A number of centres have already closed, as he should know.

Those women are saying over and over again that they cannot keep the door open. It is fine to talk about short-term program funding with a little token administrative cost on top, but that is not what we mean and he knows that. It is not what women mean either. It is for funding to keep those centres operational. Program funding is short-term.

I want to ask him if he has met with any of the women specifically, particularly women who are not Conservatives. If he has not, will he meet with them?

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** It will have to be a short answer from the Secretary of State.

**Mr. Weiner:** Madam Speaker, the answer is yes.