

Adjournment Debate

responsible for eastern Ontario, and others, that the college in Hawkesbury and the one in Cornwall both have to stay.

I wanted to make those points and I continue with other layoffs that have occurred since I raised this issue last fall. Two weeks ago a plant in L'Original, Ontario, the Ivaco steel mill, laid off an additional 150 people. In Hawkesbury the Canadian Pacific Forest Products Research lab closed down two weeks ago, 63 jobs. And now there is another textile mill which is threatening to sell its machinery and to lock its doors because of a recent change in tariff policy on the part of this government. That announcement was made to me yesterday.

That community of 10,000 people has seen hundreds and hundreds of lay-offs in the last six months.

I ask the minister who is here, and I know the parliamentary secretaries are usually assigned to answer these questions, to please give a ray of hope to the people of Hawkesbury and elsewhere in eastern Ontario. We need help. We need it badly.

Other regions of the country have federal-provincial agreements or other kinds of tools to assist them in their development. I am thinking of the new agreement in Quebec for \$80 million or something for infrastructure. That is fine. I like it.

I hear of the FEDNOR agency for northern Ontario. It is similar. I like it too.

But I think that eastern Ontario is depicted as if we were all living in the city of Ottawa, and I think the minister knows that Cornwall is not Ottawa, and Hawkesbury and L'Original and Pembroke and Renfrew are not Ottawa. They have problems that are very serious. Unemployment is 15.5 per cent in Hawkesbury, close to 20 per cent in Cornwall. Hawkesbury is 60 miles from here. Cornwall is 150 miles from here. We do not even think that that is possible in the almost shadow of the Peace Tower. But it is the sad reality of this situation.

I am inviting the government again to respond to the question I raised last fall and particularly to respond to the situation that has become seriously worse since.

Finally, I ask the minister if he could commit himself to contact the provincial Government of Ontario and at

the very least ask it not to scrap the plan for *La Cité collégiale* in Hawkesbury and that of Cornwall.

Mr. Barry Moore (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I certainly can relate to the hon. member, coming from western Quebec, where I think we have the same situation.

The federal government is very active in eastern Ontario and in western Quebec with a wide range of program support. For example, Industry, Science and Technology is providing a broad range of ongoing programs and services which help companies improve their international competitiveness and marketing efforts. These include programs related to research and development in strategic technologies, as well as diagnostic programs related to technology transfer and development.

I am sure the hon. member is aware of these; if not, he should become aware of them. I would be happy to sit down with him and with the minister to explain these different programs that are available to areas such as eastern Ontario and western Quebec.

These targeted programs and a wide range of business services are aimed at enhancing the international competitiveness of Canadian industry. They are complemented by the international market development programs and services at External Affairs and International Trade Canada, which are also delivered through the ISTC Ontario Regional Office.

In addition, the Industrial Research Assistance Program of the National Research Council provides financial assistance and technological advice in support of increased industrial competitiveness and is delivered through the NRC's offices in Ottawa and Kingston.

However, it is the Community Futures Program, with its core objective of helping designated communities and areas adjust to structural and economic change, that is the key federal mechanism for supporting communities and areas facing economic difficulty.

I can tell the hon. member that I have three Community Futures in my riding, Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle. These are the key to the development of areas such as ours. The federal government has decided that it is not somebody sitting in Ottawa or Quebec City in an ivory