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According to available statistics, the federal network runs 27 training programs—the minister said 38 earlier—and the Quebec network 5. The federal government—which has started cutting down—operates close to 100 Canada Employment Centres in Quebec, while Quebec set up the SQDM to replace the former Commission de formation professionnelle.

The original mandate of the Société québécoise de la main-d'oeuvre was to work towards the creation of true single windows in every Quebec region. Today, it acts more as a mere manager of federal funds, without much of a say.

I would like to point out that in 1993–1994, transfer payments accounted for 56 per cent of the SQDM budget, or \$150.7 million out of a total of \$269.5 million, an accurate depiction, if ever there was one, of Ottawa's control over manpower. The lack of co-ordination between the two networks results in the unemployed being ill served by the various manpower training programs.

An internal memo of the federal government did reveal that in the spring of 1993—this is a federal memo, remember—nearly 25,000 unemployed people referred to a training program could not register for lack of available places.

The policy statement of minister Bourbeau described how two different manpower training networks could cause problems. It said: "We understand how hard it can be for an uninitiated person or business to find its way among the multiple service centres like the Canada Employment Centres, the offices of the Commission de formation professionnelle de la main-d'oeuvre, Travail Québec centres, school boards, colleges, universities and the Department of Manpower, Income Security and Skills Development."

Minister Bourbeau, a liberal federalist, estimated at \$275 million the cost of these overlaps and duplications in manpower training programs. The minister who said that was not a PQ member, not a BQ member, not a sovereigntist, but a federalist.

Both governments agree that manpower training programs must change. In his discussion paper on improving social security in Canada, the Minister of Human Resources Development said: "Unfortunately, existing programs do not do this well enough. Too many people end up in programs that have little to do with their needs, aptitudes or opportunities. Many get training for jobs that do not exist locally. Many are shunted from one program to another. There are too many mismatched programs, with inconsistent rules and too much red tape. Programs offered by different levels of government are often not coordinated."

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He felt the system had to change. The federal government is not alone in adding to the mess of manpower training programs.

We must recognize that, at the time, there were too many manpower training programs. The present minister has merged a number of programs, but she is having problems because of the federal's ongoing presence and there is no sign of it withdrawing readily, given that it is currently introducing new measures. Yes, it says that these are not forced on the provinces, yet it will keep imposing guidelines. It intends to keep control.

The minister said a while ago, in his presentation, that we cannot do away with controls because certain provinces—not Quebec but others—had used the program's money to build public buildings. He feels this is enough to justify a permanent control by the federal government.

Basically, what he wants to do, what he would like to see is the provinces, Quebec included, manage the programs listed in his bill. He would like the provinces to do what he wants them to do. He is treating the provinces as mere pawns. For us in Quebec, this flies totally in the face of the established consensus.

I will quote someone else. The president of the Business Council on National Issues, Mr. Thomas d'Aquino, added his voice to the voices of those who recommend that the federal government hand over manpower training to the provinces as fast as possible. On October 28, 1994, Mr. d'Aquino said: "There is no doubt in my mind that decentralization in this area would be beneficial to the Canadian economy. The sooner the politicians come to an agreement on this question, the better".

Last year, members of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development travelled across Canada. When the minister suggests that he is implementing recommendations made to the committee, let me say that I disagree with that. I travelled to all the provinces of this country and to all the larger cities of Canada with the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development—the parliamentary secretary knows that, he had to suffer the consequences. On some occasions, I admired his courage in facing those who opposed his reform. But when he tells us later that this is what Canadians want and wish, after what I have seen and heard, when I know that 75 to 80 per cent of briefs were against what the minister is now proposing, that is, cuts of some \$2 billion in unemployment insurance, I know that is not what Canadians asked for.

People who came to testify before this committee said that what is missing today is work, job opportunities. They wished that the government would follow the policy outlined in its red book. The Liberal slogan during the last election campaign was even "Jobs, jobs, jobs". But we see that, in fact, there are not more jobs today. But worse still, the proposed changes will create two classes of unemployed.