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political persuasion I know, as a native Cape Bretoner, that regardless of what else he does, his dedication and iron will will lead him to be a force to be reckoned with in the times ahead.

Miss MacDonald: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacLellan: I would like at this point to discuss a few of the programs of the Federal Government, which I have to say would lead one to believe that, contrary to what the Opposition is saying, the Government in fact has done everything reasonably possible to reduce unemployment in this country, to ease the burden in these times and in effect to lead Canada out of this recession a stronger and more able country to deal with the opportunities that lie ahead. I have listened to previous speakers discuss permanent job opportunities. In a recession such as we find ourselves at the present time very few permanent job opportunities arise. The Government recognizes the unemployment situation and, I feel, it is doing everything it reasonably can to ease the situation. A program which this Government has supported strongly and has modified, fortified and increased in scope to deal with this particular problem, is the Canadian Community Development Program. This is not only a Program which deals with employment, those who are unemployed and who will be losing their unemployment insurance, but deals with communities such as in my own constituency, communities which have had economic difficulties for many years, communities which find their institutions in a position where they are unable to continue to exist because of the deterioration of their buildings and a reduction in membership due to aging and hard economic conditions. The Community Development Program allows those in institutions and organizations to restructure, redevelop, modify, modernize and repair to allow themselves to become viable organizations for the future, not only for the sake of the organization but for the sake of the community which depends on them. The CCDP is Canada's most successful job-creation program. The program will create over 48,000 jobs this fall and winter by supporting to a very large extent the economy of this country.

The Opposition has said on occasion that this program is only going to be a drop in the bucket for the jobs that we need. This is not the point. The point is to develop job opportunities to allow people to feed their families, and for the communities to maintain their tax base, and to continue until such time as the economy improves. This is an extremely valuable program. These jobs will not only benefit the people who are employed, but there are spin-off benefits for the community, in particular the business community, in these regions in which the grants are given. These projects may be funded for 52 weeks, with provision for an additional 26 weeks in some cases. They must be supportive of established national and regional priorities, contribute to, maintain and increase the number of jobs in an area, create jobs in areas for groups suffering from continued high unemployment, and support affirmative action principles. Applications are now being assessed for this third round of Canada Community Development Program grants.

• (1740)

The range of innovative and worth-while proposals submitted by community organizations is impressive. It shows, Mr. Speaker, that the communities are appreciative of this program. And to any group that would denounce this program I would say they have not discussed it with their constituents, which in some cases does not surprise me because the feedback they get is pretty putrid indeed.

Over the years, Mr. Speaker, during which the direct job-creation activities have developed, it has become clear that the kinds of employment opportunities and activities presented by this program are virtually endless. Many of the activities are funded in areas of critical national importance. For example, during the second round of activity in this program, funding of \$4 million was directed toward energy conservation and alternate energy source projects. Other projects, including construction of wharves, development of tourism and recreation facilities are also very important for our society. Almost \$15 million was made available, in co-operation with Fisheries and Oceans, to support the development, expansion and repair of related facilities, including restoration of spawning grounds. Tourism development is another area to which CCDP projects have made a major contribution. More than \$12.8 million was committed to such activities during the second round of this program. More than \$8.1 million of CCDP funds were committed to housing construction and repair projects for natives and socially disadvantaged peoples. This is the only way, Mr. Speaker, that some of these native groups are able to complete the homes they have started, and without this program the housing problems experienced by our native peoples would be considerably greater.

More than \$6 million under this program, during round two, were committed to activities that, in addition to being productive in themselves, were part of longer-term social and rural economic development plans or strategies which are going to aid the communities, when job opportunities return, to attract economic opportunities, not only those that exist at the present time but those that will be presenting themselves in the future. In order to strengthen this aspect of the program the Government announced in July a commitment to maintain job-creation funds over a long term in certain areas where unemployment has been excessive, even in normal times when the economy has recovered. The commitment to maintain the provision of funds over the long term in relation to historic levels is intended to provide a stable funding base for the program. With that kind of base, Mr. Speaker, organizations will be able to do long-range planning and integrate this program with the long-term activities which they are developing in their own right. This change is in line with recommendations of the task force report: "Labour Market Development in the 1980s." This report supports the need for a long-term approach to employment development in areas of high and chronic unemployment.

Another change in the program for the third round of activity is that the special response feature previously used to a limited extent has been substantially expanded. In the third