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of this country. We have taken those steps. We are well on our way to ensuring a strong and competitive Canada.

During the last four and a half years, this Government has rewritten the book on employment training. We have worked with business, labour, communities and anyone else concerned, to create programs which will best serve Canada, the Canada of tomorrow.

Several billions of dollars have been spent to train and re-train our country's workers so that they can fill the jobs of the future.

In the Hon. Member's riding, this Government has spent \$2 million for job training in the last year, and a total of \$14.4 million since 1985. He of all people has no basis upon which to base doubts about the efforts to help Canada meet the labour market demands.

Can any Member of this House deny the massive challenges Canada faces in light of expanding global markets and technological change? In a world of enhanced international competition, Canada's most important need will be a workforce which is equipped with proper skills. Our human resources are the key to preparing Canada for a labour market which is radically different from the one we know today.

Right now 40 per cent of all jobs call for professional white collar skills. By the year 2000, 80 per cent of all jobs will demand those skills. It is clear that job training is a critical part of the march toward the next century. Equipping workers for the needs of the labour market will ensure Canadians the degree of prosperity which we have enjoyed until now.

Two-thirds of Canadians who participated in a recent poll said they need skills training to keep up with economic competition and technological change. Less than half who work full time have received training in the last two years. More than half of the unskilled workers polled had received no training at all.

The example of other countries has proven that business must constantly help their workers upgrade their skills in order to keep their businesses competitive. In 1987 only one out of four Canadian companies spent money to train their employees. Canada spends about half the amount on training that the United States does.

It has been evident for some time now that this is not just the Government's problem.

When Canada cannot keep up with the world competition because its workforce does not have the right skills, it is the problem of every Canadian. That is why our Government since its first term has worked to put relevant training programs on everyone's agenda. Labour, that is business and communities, have an important role to play in providing training.

In 1985, this Government replaced more than 40 ineffective make-work programs with a co-ordinated regionally driven initiative called the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Rather than making work, we set out to make permanent jobs. The Canadian Canadian Jobs Strategy is aimed at individuals and their specific training needs. It allows people in the regions and those who understand the local labour market to direct the programs. Canadian Jobs Strategy has been just as successful as we expected.

Most of those who take part in the Canadian Jobs Strategy training program find work using their newly acquired skills, skills which will continue to be in demand for a long time. Building on the philosophy and the success of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) recently introduced an important national program which will lead to further improvements in the training and employment structure of the Canadian labour market. The Canadian Labour Force Development Strategy represents this Government's commitment to work with its partners in business and labour, to prepare Canada's workers for the future. It also represents a shift from former passive income support for the unemployed to more relevant and active support in line with labour market needs.

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On examining our unemployment insurance program, we found it needed a new look to keep it in line with the times. The purpose of the unemployment insurance program remains what it was upon its inception almost 50 years ago: to protect people out of work and to maintain economic stability. However, unemployment insurance must evolve with current economic needs. Under the strategy, unemployment insurance will help clients get relevant training so that they can return to the workforce with the skills needed to keep a job longer.