

*Oral Questions*

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the minister would finish his answer.

**Mr. Weiner:** Mr. Speaker, it pains us to have to say to anyone that we cannot give them as much as they need. Maybe there are some other sources of funding that might be available to groups. We have been very supportive of all of their initiatives and will continue to work within our program to see that they get as much help as we can give them.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

After abolishing the Canadian Exploration Incentive Program, will the government take special measures to help mining communities in Abitibi, Quebec and Canada affected by the cancellation of this program?

[*English*]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member is aware, we talked about this. I am very much aware of his concern and interest in the particular issue.

We are concerned about the impact of this on the communities in the north. We have programs in place through the Department of Employment and Immigration and the Community Futures Program as well as another program that deals with this type of situation. These will be fully available to communities in the north in order to ensure there is the easiest possible transition.

I should also note, Mr. Speaker, that there are grandfathering arrangements which will provide for a gradual reduction in the flow of funds from this program during the course of this year.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, this budget has driven a knife to the heart of the Secretary of State women's programs. We have seen a 20 per cent cut to the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, a 100 per cent cut to *Le Centre des femmes du Québec* and a 100 per cent cut to the Centre for Canadian Women's Studies. My question is to the Minister of Finance. Maybe he can tell me if the Secretary of State can't. When will the minister end this institutionalized discrimination and stop this male chauvinist cut of a budget?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague has stated quite clearly that we are sensitive to the needs of women's organizations and other organizations that are affected by this budget. We are quite aware that we are asking organizations to share with us in dealing with a major national problem.

It is very important for us as a country to get the level of interest rates down. To do that we have to get the level of inflation and the level of the deficit down. That does not happen just by wishing it to happen. Everybody has to share in some reduction in the level of funding for various programs.

Yes, these programs are affected as are a number of other programs. I think that Canadians as a whole understand the importance of this. I hope that they will be able to accept the reasoning why we have had to take these decisions.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is I hope that the battered women across Canada understand why these groups have to take a 100 per cent cut in funding. I hope that the families and friends of the students in Montreal who died because violence against women is accepted in this country can accept this.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. Clancy:** When is the minister going to realize that women cannot wait, that they cannot accept his budgetary cuts on their backs?

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the statement which the hon. member has just made is absolutely outrageous. It should not be made in a place like this, and she knows it.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** If she can show any program that is being cut by 100 per cent—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Well, now I see the hon. member who just made the outrageous statement laughing her head off.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Now this is something that demonstrates the duplicitousness of people on the other side of this House. We have made it quite clear