

*Supply*

missions, labour development commissions and productive uses of UI funds.

Let me give a couple of examples of persons who can benefit from a development program offered by Employment and Immigration Canada: a woman who is 36 years old, spent 20 years in the catering business and was laid off twice in the last two years, which is, it goes without saying, a very discouraging situation, or a 30-year old person who wants to work in the hospitality industry, but a job is more and more difficult to find.

These cases are a sign of the times. Even if the tourist industry is a big employer, there is a lack of qualified people for the jobs. Therefore, with the financial assistance of Employment and Immigration, the principal intervenors in this industry will work together to help these women upgrade their skills to better meet market requirements.

Those intervenors can train front-line employees and supervisors who get UI benefits. There is such a high labour turnover in the hospitality industry that it is hard to maintain a quality service. Employers are pleased to see the government and everyone in the industry cooperate to improve the situation. This is only one example among many.

This vision is one of an active society where the government is supposed to help people prepare for the job market, where working people are rewarded, where counselling, training, relocating and business starting services are offered to those who are looking for a job. Labour market reintegration requires income maintenance, but the focus is not income maintenance nor reintegration. It is work itself.

In the same way, the prosperity initiative forced us back in the real world and replaced the economy on the forefront of our concerns. Indeed the UI reform should enable a more active use of UI funds and promote self-sufficiency among unemployed workers.

We must also promote more private sector investments in training to make our labour more competitive and we must help people adjust themselves to competition. According to a comparison with other countries, all

members of the Organization for Economic Development, Canada trails behind in terms of its active assistance initiatives compared to its passive ones. We are on the right track, but we must do more.

We are actively trying to find solutions and our programs are constantly improved. Training did not respond to private sector needs, so we handed the controls over to the private sector, that is to the labour development commissions. Right now 68 000 employers and associations offer training, and 200 private sector groups instead of public servants are taking up courses.

We are getting excellent results with our industry adjustment program, so we doubled the funds. We were not getting good results with respect to the natives, so we gave them responsibility through the Pathways to Success strategy. Our labour market had obsolete professional standards in the area of automotive repair, so we called on the Canadian Automotive Repair and Service Council. Our high schools were getting poor results with respect to high risk youths, so we funded co-operative education, which encourages young people to go on with their studies while gaining work experience and a sense of reality.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration certainly has shown some leadership, with the support of his department which has a unique approach to dealing with the problems of our modern era, which require creative solutions instead of well-worn criticism.

Those problems can be solved, but not through traditional means. With traditional solutions, governments are always right. This must be the kind of solution the mover of this motion has in mind. But none of the problems we have fit the traditional mould. Times have changed, as the hon. member will realize if he takes the time to try and understand the problems we have to deal with daily with our partners.

I have shown that our government strives to manage Canadian affairs properly and looks after labour development and new skills development. In recent years it implemented programs that will allow the young, the natives and women to get better jobs for longer periods