

lish will provide the Government with guidance on the needs of the private sector.

The \$230 million designated for the private sector breaks down as follows: \$65 million will be spent on sectoral human resources planning; \$100 million will be spent on developing the skills of young Canadians who do not have the qualifications for today's jobs and need help to make the transition from school to work; \$15 million will be used to provide more assistance to businesses in adjusting their labour force when they are either expanding, shutting down or introducing technological change; \$50 million will be used to help 200 designated communities whose economic situation has been affected by market developments. This amount is in addition to the \$148 million already earmarked by the Government for job creation.

All these measures, Mr. Speaker, not only infuse our training programs with greater vigour, they are also adapted to the situation in disadvantaged regions.

The Unemployment Insurance Program will not only be more active, it will also play a development role. That is what I call making the most of our resources for the common good!

At this point, I think we should remember that having a job means a lot more than getting a pay cheque every week. It also means feeling that one is participating fully in the economic growth of our society. When someone is unemployed and finally gets a job, that very fact often means restored dignity and self-esteem and, especially, a chance to realize, to explore potential that would have been wasted.

In addition, the Government will be providing an additional \$50 million to the \$50 million already available under the Canada Assistance Plan, in order to help social assistance recipients acquire the skills and experience they need to get a job.

This particular group consists of a large number of young people between the ages of 18 and 25. As someone who has worked for many years in education and business, I find it particularly sad that one young person out of three is unable to finish high school. We must pay special attention to these young people who constitute a tremendous resource for our society. If we fail to act quickly to bring a large number of the 18 to 25 group into the labour force, we run the risk of excluding

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them forever from the mainstream of society, with all the social costs that implies.

Together with provincial funds, more than \$200 million more will be spent annually on re-employment of social assistance recipients. In concrete terms, 20,000 recipients will have a chance to upgrade their training. Considering the extent of the federal Government's contribution, it is obviously false to claim that the legislation's new provisions would have the effect of increasing the number of social assistance recipients, and thus increase the financial burden on the provinces. We must not forget that first of all, under the Canada Assistance Plan the federal Government is responsible for funding half the costs of social assistance, and second, that the training and re-employment programs proposed under the new strategy will reduce the number of welfare recipients.

• (1530)

The Government also believes that more must be done to improve the situation of unemployed older workers. One hundred million dollars will be provided to cover the costs of hiring and training workers laid off as a result of changes in technology and demand.

Other incentives for this kind of worker to find another job quickly are also planned. These will be in addition to those already provided by existing Jobs Strategy programs.

The Bill submitted for the approval of the House, Mr. Speaker, thoroughly changes the present special benefits plan.

In order to meet the requirements of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, our Government intends not only to guarantee parental benefits for natural and adoptive parents but also to make the special benefits provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act more flexible. Under the new provisions, both parents will be able to share 10 weeks of benefits after the birth or adoption of a child. The new plan will allow beneficiaries to combine sickness, maternity and parental benefits up to the maximum allowable, 30 weeks.

The combination of maternity and sickness benefits, now limited to 145 weeks, will therefore be eliminated. These new provisions will cost the Unemployment Insurance Plan another \$450 million. This is, Mr. Speaker, a beautiful example of a Government that is concerned with the condition of women and young couples and that is not afraid to act in a tangible way to enable them to