

Oral Questions

We also have the youth initiatives under the Challenge program. As my hon. colleague knows or should know, its budgets have been increased this year for the second year in a row. According to the job prospects that we are going to have this summer, notwithstanding the fact that it is going to be difficult we need the partnership of not only the private sector but of provincial governments.

I believe we have what is needed right now to face the serious situation that exists, a situation that has been dealt with, particularly with the government's initiative with respect to stay in school, where we have to make sure that our youth get the fundamental instruments to deal with the future.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, they cannot stay in school when their rates for tuition have gone up 25 per cent and their unemployment rate is at 22 per cent.

The minister says that there have been increases in these grants over the past two years. Yes, small ones, but over the past seven years the cutbacks in these grants amount to over \$70 million. On top of that is the decimation of established programs funding crippling universities in Atlantic Canada and making them raise tuitions. Send them back to school with what?

What plan does the government have to give young people in Atlantic Canada some relief and some hope?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, with respect to hope, again the hon. member has to look at government initiatives as a whole.

The prosperity initiative is specifically about hope and about future prospects. So the youth of today do not have to pay the debt of past governments.

What we are doing right now is making sure that the fundamentals are there. The stay in school initiative is about that, and the training programs my colleague the Minister of Employment and Immigration has put forward are at \$3.4 billion.

JOB TRAINING

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

One and one-half million Canadians are unemployed. Part-time jobs are replacing full-time jobs. We have record levels of food banks and homeless people, and the minister makes excuses for not doing more.

Does the minister not realize that money spent on training and the unemployed is an investment in human resources which expands our skilled work force, produces wealth and helps reduce the deficit?

When will the minister take off his Tory blinkers and put more money into training and job creation?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that a Liberal stands in this House today and congratulates the government for having targeted training as a priority area of activity.

He should have been there when they blocked passage of a law in this country that has allowed us in the last two years to triple the amount of money going to the training of UI recipients in this country.

I thank the hon. member for his *reconnaissance de notre bon travail*.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, the government is spending more on training out of the unemployment insurance fund but less out of general revenues. To do that the government has cut back on unemployment insurance benefits, which has shifted the burden of the unemployed to the provinces and to the municipalities. That is what it is doing.

Our major competitors in Japan, Europe and the United States spend more on training and education. Does the minister not see that more money spent on training today will produce wealth and dividends tomorrow?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member read our learning paper. These words come from exactly what I published three months ago. I thank him again. He is right. We have to invest more in people. We have to