

Adjournment Debate

In December, 1987 the federal government announced a three-part policy to deal with child care, carrying into effect a commitment that had been made by the Prime Minister. Two of the three parts have been carried forward.

Let me point out the first aspect of that. Families have been given an enhanced tax assistance for pre-school aged children as a result of changes to the child care expense deduction and the introduction of a supplement to the child tax credit. This became effective in the tax year 1988 and the expense deduction was doubled from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per child for children six years of age and under and, also very important, for children with special needs.

As well, again showing that the government has heart, a new \$200 supplement was added to the basic child tax credit. This supplement is particularly aimed at younger children, specifically children in lower and middle-income families. Taken together these tax measures, which were key components of the government's 1987 child care policy, have provided additional financial assistance for about 1.4 million families in our country.

Also part of the national strategy was the Child Care Initiatives Fund. This was established in 1988 to support whatever innovative approaches were coming from the community. I hope the member would agree that community involvement is what we need. This fund provides

funding to projects that develop or demonstrate quality child care services for Canadian families. So far, more than \$33 million in funding has been provided under this fund.

The hon. member said that money seems more important than children to this government. These facts totally contradict her allegations.

In fact, the third part of the strategy had to do with the legislation that was passed in the House of Commons. The hon. member for Halifax is quite right, it was held up in the other place dominated by members of her party. So there is some accounting to be made there.

As a result of having missed that window of opportunity, the Minister of Finance indicated in his 1989 budget that the funds were not there to proceed with that. However, there have been subsequent announcements by the government that this will be done within this mandate. It shows that actions speak louder than words when it comes to proving who has a heart.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m, pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6.06 p.m.