

I want to tell you this. When we came back, we prepared a report that clearly makes the case for federal assistance. We were in certain parts of Nova Scotia where raw sewage is being dumped directly into the ocean. As well, in some parts of Canada they have no infrastructure whatsoever. For instance in certain parts of Newfoundland, in fact in the vast majority of Newfoundland, sewage treatment plants simply do not exist at all.

From town to town, from city to city, day after day, we heard the same story from officials, that unless they get some sort of federal assistance, there is no way they will be able to rely on the local tax base to update their infrastructure. Why I say infrastructure is because we have run-off coming as a result of deficiencies in the existing systems that takes rain and whatever residues that might fall into sewage systems and takes it directly into the sewage treatment plants before it is sent back to the rivers. The messier the sewer system is, the more difficult it is for us to treat it and as the result of that there is cost involved. Unless we do quality work at that end, when it comes to water purification and water treatment, we are going to pay the cost.

I do not have to reiterate and make the case all over again for the need for federal government funds in the area of infrastructure. I think the Leader of the Opposition has made the case very well when he committed our party to put funds toward infrastructure. He has committed the Liberal Party to enter into a partnership with the provinces and the municipalities in the area of infrastructure simply because our party recognized the fact that with that kind of partnership you not only help the municipalities, you deal with the problem. At the same time you encourage economic growth, you encourage economic development and you create jobs, you generate revenues, you activate the economies and you collect more taxes. Every dollar you put in, I could assure you that probably you get another dollar at the other end in terms of revenues from different sources.

We have to look at the whole issue as an investment rather than looking at it as expenditures. There are things we have to consider as expenditures, but there are others things we have to look at as investment. Certainly putting money into infrastructure is an investment.

Private Members' Business

When my colleague from Ottawa—Vanier addresses the question of water, he is certainly recognizing full well the fact that a series of other things have to take place as well.

I want to commend him because as I indicated earlier, it is a timely motion. Being a member of this House from this region, the member recognizes the fact that there are deficiencies in our Ottawa—Carleton region. I want to list the different water facilities in our region and bring to the attention of the House the cost to maintain those facilities and bring them up to date.

For example, the Ottawa—Carleton region with a population of approximately 600,000 has a few facilities, one of which is called the Britannia Water Filtration Plant. This facility is currently under construction at a cost of \$33.5 million. This facility is required in order to increase production capability from 225 million litres per day to 360 million litres per day so that the tremendous needs of the community can be met.

We have another plant, the Lemieux Island Filtration Plant, which is 50 years old. We have to retrofit this plant immediately at a cost of \$37 million.

Also, at the present time the Ottawa—Carleton region is studying the water filtration plant process modifications in order to maintain state-of-the-art treated water quality. These modifications will cost the region approximately \$23 million and will provide for potential deterioration of raw water quality and anticipated enhanced provincial standards.

As a result of provincial government direction to this region, water filtration plant waste water disposal will be required. That particular project will cost this region \$38 million.

In order to sustain development in our region in the major growth areas of Orleans, Hazeldean, and Barrhaven, additional reservoir and pumping facilities costing approximately \$40 million must be undertaken within the next few years. In a region with a population of approximately 600,000 people the need is now in excess of \$172 million. That is not the total cost.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention that completion of sewage treatment facilities for this region is going to cost in excess of \$400 million.