

facilities in that many municipalities have now used up all the funds available to them for material costs.

Many municipalities and the department generally are now interested in projects which will actually create new economic activity. In this respect I think of projects under LEAP. For instance, this winter we are building an addition to the nursing home at Wikwimekong which is one of the largest Indian bands in the Algoma-Manitoulin area. This nursing home is receiving LEAP funding and will ultimately provide accommodations for some 30 patients. LEAP is providing funding for labour costs. It will ultimately create some 14 jobs in that nursing home.

Likewise funds which are being spent under direct employment programs like Canada Works and the Winter Works programs will improve docking facilities for the tourist industry, which is very important throughout the Algoma-Manitoulin district and for which no other source of funding seems to have been available for the last year or so. The Canada Works program has been very beneficial there.

However, the problem we face with these programs is the drastic reduction in the amount of funding. For the past several years the funding level in the Algoma-Manitoulin area has run in the neighbourhood of \$1.5 million. During this past year it has been something like \$250,000. Applications from Indian bands, rural municipalities and other non-profit groups have continued at the higher level. A few weeks ago I asked the minister if additional funding would be provided for the community development program, and he indicated that in the budget there is some \$350 million for industrial activity and adjustment. I hope he will be able to indicate to us today the amount of additional funding which will be provided under the community development program, because a number of projects which were not funded or had to be reduced in size for this coming winter could be funded if the minister allocated additional moneys to this program.

The second inquiry I have is whether future funding for this program will be set out in the main estimates. When the community development program and the Canada Works program was established, it was established on a five-year basis and the funds were put in the main estimates of the department. Job-creation officers working with municipalities or Indian bands were able to say, "We will do this project over a two or three-year period". The program was totally cancelled while the Conservative government was in power, and many projects were left half completed.

However, now that the program has now been reinstated, I hope the minister will be able to indicate how many years this program will be in operation so that groups applying for funding can plan to phase their projects over a period of years. This is very important because funding for materials must be put up, and since groups often cannot afford to pay the full cost in one year, they phase their projects over a number of years. For instance, at least one municipality in my constituency—there might have been two or three others—was undertaking a marina project. It was phased over a period of two or

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three years as its shares of funding was available. I hope the minister will be able to indicate the duration of this program.

I want to raise a number of questions about the Local Economic Development Assistance program. Applications have been sought from a number of municipalities across the country to set up LEDA corporations in an effort to generate more economic activity, especially among the private sector, to provide some assistance to local development corporations, to seek out and find worth-while industries in slow-growth areas and to provide some capital funding or loan funding. A number of municipalities are waiting to find out whether they will receive interim funding for the design of projects, and I would be interested in knowing if the minister could tell us when decisions about LEDA corporations will be made known, at least in the Ontario region.

Early this fall the minister indicated to me that he was assessing the possibility of establishing a Canada Employment Centre in Blind River, Ontario for the north shore area. I think this would be a wise move. There is a certain amount of economic activity there, but the services of Canada Manpower would be very valuable to that community and to the north shore region. I hope the minister will give an indication today whether a decision has been made and when the Manpower centre will be provided for that community and that whole sweep of communities along the north shore of Lake Huron.

The hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who is involved with the special committee on manpower and critical manpower needs, spoke in the House this afternoon. I think his committee has a very important responsibility to this House because in a large number of instances in communities in northern Ontario there is a shortage of trained, skilled workmen, especially tradesmen, diesel mechanics and tool and die makers. There are all critical manpower shortages, yet we have high unemployment in the country.

I hope that committee will be making recommendations, because surely during the 1980s, as major construction projects go forward—I refer to Elliot Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Espanola and a number of other pulp and paper communities throughout northern Ontario—there will be shortages in certain trades such as pipe fitting, steam fitting and others like that. I certainly hope we can find a solution to this problem of high unemployment while at the same time a number of tradesmen are in short supply. A few years ago mining companies in northern Ontario were applying for these skilled tradesmen in the United Kingdom. A few months later there were massive lay-offs at the Inco mine at Sudbury. So obviously we need a better training program and a better forecasting mechanism in the department.

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Recently I read that the Department of Employment and Immigration, in co-operation with the provincial governments, was planning to purchase a new school in Toronto for training people, which would reduce the apprenticeship and training period on the job from four years to three years. It seems to me that this would be a good move, and I wonder if the