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Economic Expansion by the Prime Minister's Government in the late 1960s I suggest was a daring, creative and innovative way of attacking that very issue.

What has DREE done? In my judgment, notwithstanding some of these rather silly criticisms about the location of buildings and so on, it really has been an outstanding success. That has been said to me time and time again by Members of Parliament from the Atlantic region. DREE undertook to put necessary infrastructure in place and that has been done.

Let me cite a few examples of what DREE has accomplished in the Atlantic Provinces. For example, in New Brunswick, the Market Square project virtually transformed the face of Saint John. The Village Acadian is the centrepiece of a growing tourism industry in northeastern New Brunswick. Silviculture infrastructure, such as tree nurseries, greenhouses and seed collection centres, has established the most intense forest management program of any province.

The member for St. John's might be interested to know and in fact knows very well that in Newfoundland a network of industrial parts has been established that expanded the industrial or commercial base of St. John's, Grand Falls, Carbonear, Corner Brook, Gander and Wabush. As well, there is a second industrial park for Corner Brook and industrial malls and parks in Port aux Basques, Pasadena, Windsor and Gander.

There are waterfront developments in Nova Scotia, such as the kind the Hon. Member mentioned in his own province, both in Halifax and Dartmouth. The Hon. Member from Halifax was here a moment ago. He is very familiar with and probably very proud of that particular program.

Coal reserves in Cape Breton were proven up as a result of these DREE finance projects. There was port and transportation facilities for communities in the Strait of Canso development. There was general improvement in agricultural production right across the province as a result of DREE initiatives. Again, there is forest management in Nova Scotia and of course there is the tourism industry.

Let us look at Prince Edward Island itself. I will not repeat some of the specific initiatives, such as decentralization which was not a DREE project, the special recovery capital projects program or all of the small craft harbour programs. These are all parallel and complementary to DREE. In the case of Prince Edward Island, DREE contributed to the construction of 20 schools and assisted in setting up industrial parks in Charlottetown and Summerside, funded three grain elevators, helped to construct some 350 miles of highway, and contributed to major projects in the core areas of Charlottetown and Summerside, including the waterfront project to which the Hon. Member made reference. DREE was instrumental in constructing the electrical interconnection cable to New Brunswick.

It was the Prime Minister's view, as expressed by the Government, that the time had come for another bold initiative to build on the accomplishments of DREE but in a way that would make all departments of government sensitive to

the needs of the region. That is fundamental to the reorganization which was announced by the Prime Minister in January, 1982.

I must say that I get angry when I hear people say that this Government has in any way backed off from its commitment for regional development. Quite to the contrary, that organization is intended to make every single department, not just one such as DREE with responsibilities singled out for regional economic development, but all departments of governments represented in the committee of economic and regional development which I chair sensitive to the regional dimension. Furthermore, apart from the sensitivity that has been instilled in all of these departments and the putting in place of an economic development co-ordinator in each of the provinces, the regional fund has remained intact and has been singled out for the financing of specific projects and specific undertakings under the economic and regional development agreements in each of the provinces in order to maintain the historic spending levels.

I believe that the reorganization, as I refer to it, has marked a fundamental initiative to promote much more effective federal policies that serve the objectives of this nation, namely in building up the strengths.

The Hon. Member for Hillsborough made the very point that self-sufficiency is the thrust of solid economic and regional development. We are attempting to achieve self-sufficiency by identifying the strengths of the regions and by doing precisely what the Hon. Member has said, namely by designing our projects and our priorities with respect to each province to build upon the strengths of the region, upon the agricultural strengths of Prince Edward Island, upon the aquaculture strengths and upon the technology bases which are gradually springing up across the country. Of course, we see this at the University of Prince Edward Island and at the community college.

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The whole thrust of the Government is to sit down and participate in joint planning with the provinces to determine together the areas of mutual interest. What areas could we identify with the Province of Prince Edward Island? We have done this in several ways. The first way, as we have done in each of the provinces, was to develop an economic development perspective, developed by the economic co-ordinator. In the case of Prince Edward Island, the co-ordinator is well known to the Hon. Member for Hillsborough, Mr. Doug Johnston, who is the senior federal Government economic presence in that province. There is one such person in each province of Canada. They are part of this reorganization.

One of the most important elements of the reorganization is that for the first time federal departments, which as I explained to the Hon. Member are supposed to be sensitive to the regional dimension, are now brought together horizontally in a regional council chaired by the economic development co-ordinator to address in a complementary fashion the economic development requirements of the provinces. As I said, in