

Petitions

[Translation]

STRIKINGCONCURRENCE IN FIFTY-FIRST REPORT OF STANDING
COMMITTEE

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, if the House agrees, and seconded by the Hon. Member for Brome—Missisquoi (Mrs. Bertrand) I should like to move the adoption of the 51st report of the Striking Committee which I tabled in the House earlier today.

Motion agreed to.

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[English]

PETITION

PROPOSED FREE TRADE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which I have been keeping for some time because it is so important. It deals with the so-called free trade deal.

The petitioners feel that the proposed free trade deal is a threat to Canadian sovereignty and that it will mean that the Canadian Government cannot effectively control foreign ownership, develop Canadian energy resources in the best interest of Canadians or equalize opportunities between the regions.

They pray that there be a general election held before the free trade deal is implemented so that the Canadian people can either accept it or, in the view of the petitioners, reject it.

The petition is from Vancouver, British Columbia and other parts of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, question No. 260 will be answered today.

[Text]

CEC LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

Question No. 260—**Mr. Robinson:**

1. How many Canada Employment Centre (CEC) Local Advisory Councils (LACs) are currently active?

2. Has there been any process of evaluation within the Department of Employment and Immigration for LACs and, if so (a) what are the results of

this process (b) have LACs been effective in attaining their goals and objectives?

3. Are there any specific examples of suggestions emanating from LACs that have resulted in changes or improvements with regard to national employment policies and CEC programmes or services and, if so, what are the details of such examples?

4. Are changes planned to the mandate, structure or role of the LACs and, if so (a) what specific changes are being considered (b) when will they be implemented?

5. Will the Minister convene a meeting of the chairpersons of LACs and, if so (a) on what date (b) in what place will this meeting be held?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): 1. One hundred and fifty-eight.

2. No.

3. Yes. Examples: Many Local Advisory Councils (LACs) have pointed out that certain Canadian Jobs Strategy (CJS) procedures were too complex. As part of the LAC process, all LAC suggestions are circulated to program managers within the Commission. These comments on procedures were extremely useful to the task force reviewing administrative practices relating to CJS.

A number of LACs suggested the eligibility criteria of the Job Development program were too restrictive, especially in respect of Severely Employment Disadvantages (SED) persons. In June, 1987, the SED option was moved from Job Development to Job Entry, thus eliminating the requirement that participants must have been unemployed 24 of the last 30 weeks.

LACs expressed the desire to be informed of upcoming CJS yearly budgets earlier. For the 1987-88 fiscal year, steps were taken to ensure that most councils were able to review their tentative allocations well before the start of the fiscal year.

Concerns were expressed about the designation process of occupations under Skill Shortages, and how the program ought to help more women enter non-traditional occupations. In June, 1987, it was agreed that non-traditional occupations would be designated to help meet the demand for qualified women that will result from employment equity plans or special measures undertaken by employers.

A large number of LACs complained about the delay in having skills designated centrally through National Headquarters. Authority to designate selected occupational skill shortages was subsequently delegated to regional heads.

A B.C. LAC asked that the CEC give higher priority locally to upgrading course and CEC complied.

Another LAC in B.C. suggested CEC send information on CJS to 100 selected employers and it was done.

After discussing the services provided by the CEC, a B.C. LAC recommended that counselling be introduced for a test period of four months. The CEC manager accepted and implemented the proposal.