

help young people find a first job or keep the one they have.

There is the Job Development Program, where \$107.2 million go to young people. The Job Entry Program which gives \$139.3 million to young people only. The Skill Shortages Program, \$97.6 million. The Skills Investment Program, \$8.4 million. The Community Futures Program, \$6.7 million also for young people.

I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the hon. member is willing to recognize these figures or whether he will tell us that these programs are not meant for young people, when the fact is that 46.4 per cent of the 400,000 participants to the Canadian Jobs Strategy are young people. Consequently, \$487 million out of a budget of \$1.7 billion are used for training young people and helping them find a job. I ask the hon. member to comment on our programs.

[English]

**Mr. Bevilacqua:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question posed by the hon. member. However, today we are speaking to a reality that perhaps can be best described in and by the title of Lila Sarick's article, I believe it was in *The Globe and Mail* of June 4, *Thirsting for Employment in the Summer Job Drought*:

The search is on for career related work, but students are finding their prospects bleak as many companies have cut the numbers they hire.

Obviously, we are also aware of the cuts made by this government.

There is myth and then there is reality. Obviously, the programs that the government has introduced are not working, simply because we have a high unemployment rate among youth. It is a fact that you and I cannot dispute. I do not think that 16.6 per cent at a time when this government wants to compete globally is fair. Nor do I think it is something that this particular government would wish on young people.

Unfortunately, as a direct result of this government's policies, we are faced with a youth unemployment crisis. It is for this reason that this party has allocated today to address the issue. I hope the words and proposals made

### Supply

on this side of the House are answered by the government and acted upon simply because this is no humorous situation. It is very serious when a government in a Speech from the Throne speaks to global competitiveness, speaks to a learning society, but does exactly the opposite when it comes to financial commitment.

The reality is that if the government does not commit funds and does not give what is required to carry out the proposals that we have heard in the Speech from the Throne, it is not going to happen.

I am speaking to this government to kindly urge its leadership to act on the words that are cited in the Speech from the Throne and not use them as mere references. There is a generation of Canadians waiting for this government's actions, a generation that is going to spell out whether or not Canada will succeed globally.

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to participate in this debate.

In doing so, I wish to congratulate my colleague from Welland—St. Catharines and, of course, the hon. member for York North for initiating this particular debate on subject matter which is of great importance to young Canadians and also to many families across this country.

I enter this debate and wish to espouse the views of my constituents who are students at the University College of Cape Breton, and who may be students at Riverview High School, Glace Bay High School, Breton Education Centre in the town of New Waterford, MacDonald High School in the town of Dominion, Reserve District High in Reserve Mines, Duncan High School in Duncan and St. Peter's in Richmond County.

I have listened quite attentively to the remarks made by my colleagues on this side of the House, and equally so to the comments which have been made by members opposite. It should be noted that student unemployment in my province is roughly 16 per cent and growing. I suggest to the Chair that in my area of the province it has perhaps doubled 16 per cent.

We have had a proliferation of closings, shutdowns, and the erosion of national institutions. As a result, numerous jobs have gone by the wayside leaving families, some young, some middle-aged, some not so young, in a