

Supply

This is just at a time when they are scared stiff about where the next job is going to come from, of where the next pay cheque is going to come from. Now they also have been given the plum of worrying that perhaps the next time they have to visit the doctor because their kids are sick they will on top of that preoccupation have to pay cash for that visit.

She talks about the politics of inclusion. That is none other than the politics of fear. At the very worst time Canadians are being saddled with unnecessary, unfair and mean-spirited solutions to very serious problems.

The budget was a disgrace because the budget essentially suggested that we stay the course. That is what it suggested. It said let us stay the course, as if that course is the right one, as if that course is working on behalf of Canadians.

Why do we not take a look at what defines that course? What is the picture that is being painted across the land after nine years of national Conservative rule? Reports in today's media about the average family income having been reduced to 1976 levels really tells the tale does it not? It suggests in a very profound way that people are working longer and harder for less.

That was the same message that President Clinton brought to the Americans when George Bush had blinkers on. One of his central premises was that Americans were working longer hours and harder, not only to stay the same but for less.

Today's report of the average family income is telling Canadians the same message. We are not ahead, we are not even the same. We are working for less.

What is that course, what is the face of that picture? The National Forum on Family Security really painted that picture yesterday when it talked about the decreasing economic vitality of the average Canadian family.

Look at that course. Since 1989, 450,000 full-time jobs have disappeared. The unemployment rate for Canadian youth is at 17 per cent. The proportion of Canadians living below the poverty line has increased over the decade by almost one million people, bringing the total number of Canadians living under the poverty line to 4.2 million.

Of those people living in poverty 1.1 million people are children. In terms of the same poverty rate among single

mothers caring for dependent children that has hit 62 per cent of all single parent, women led families. The number of Canadians on the welfare roll exceeds two million people, 40 per cent of whom are children.

They also talk about the age distribution, that the percentage of poor among younger Canadian families has increased from 21 per cent in the mid-1980s to almost 37 per cent. That is the course on which this government has steered this country.

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When we talk about economic vitality, I look at my province of Ontario and my city of metropolitan Toronto. What is the course there?

Ontario has lost 225,000 manufacturing jobs since 1990, just during the period of the recession. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association estimates that over half of those jobs will not be coming back when the economy rebounds.

Unemployment in Ontario last March, over 551,000 Ontarians unemployed; bankruptcies, 1992, 31,400 bankruptcies in Ontario, record number; 1.2 million Ontarians on welfare.

It is the same picture in metropolitan Toronto. Look at the homeless statistics. There are 50,000 people in Toronto classified as homeless. Fifty per cent of those people are under the age of 18. Welfare, 310,000 people in metropolitan Toronto alone are on welfare. Food banks, over 162,000 people depend on them on a regular basis.

Over 10 per cent of Toronto's population have used food banks at least once. Last year alone 75 million pounds of food were distributed, not to Biafrans or to any other needy human beings across the globe legitimately, but to Canadians through food banks, and this government has the unmitigated gall to give Canadians a budget that stays the course.

How irresponsible can a government be? It hides behind the deficit and debt situation. Yes, it is an issue and it is a concern. Yes, we must be fiscally responsible.

Clearly there is a need for a new course. Clearly there is a need for new solutions. Clearly there is a need for new ideas because the course that this government has brought us on is not a very enthusiastic course at all. Those statistics, unfortunately, paint a very dire picture