

Supply

of justice and fair play for women, but they were also involved in critical support to family services such as the child care issue. Without safe, effective child care, a woman cannot leave her children without leaving them in jeopardy. For either two-parent families or single-parent families in which the parent can be either sex, child care is an absolutely critical aspect.

Another important aspect is transition homes where women and children who are exposed to family violence can find a safe place to protect them from the violence in the home and give them an opportunity to begin to reorganize their lives. That women's resource centre in Campbell River was instrumental in getting just such a transition house going. Not only has the resource centre closed but there are questions about the continued viability of the transition house. Hopefully, it will not be dragged down by the negative policy of this government.

The Campbell River and District Women's Resource Centre was an outspoken advocate for better programs, more direct programs to prevent the abuse of children, be it mental, physical or sexual abuse of which there is an enormous amount. It is a hidden problem in Canadian society. That organization was instrumental and very effective in the discussion to try to get at this problem through prevention, through protection, and through treatment of offenders.

It is absolutely critical that that core funding be restored so that not only operations like the transition house can continue but programs they are instrumental in developing or supporting for the prevention of the abuse of children.

There is a need for planned parenthood. This government, with its head buried in the sand along with the provincial Government of British Columbia, has created serious damage to individuals who want rational family planning. What we need are community services such as the women's resource centre which took an active role in providing information and leadership in developing proper programs for planned parenthood. I congratulate them for the job they have done and absolutely urge this government to consider the wrong-headed approach that led to the 100 per cent cut in this organization's funding.

This organization provided legal assistance and in many cases advocacy services for women with a whole range of problems, be they legal problems or debt related problems. One could go on all day about the kinds of important services it provided to the community.

For \$25,000 this government obtained an active, hard working board of directors, a system of volunteers, three part-time employees, and a modest, low cost office in the community. It could not be bought in the Public Service. It could not be obtained anywhere. These people were principled, dedicated and working for absolute peanuts. This government put that valuable service to the community out of business.

I for one urge the present Minister responsible for the Status of Women to get on the government's case—from the Prime Minister to the Minister of National Health and through the entire cabinet—to have that funding restored or resign. No one with a clear conscience could stay with a group of individuals who would carry out an activity like that, especially a woman who was instrumental in assessing the needs of that community in Campbell River and finding that that community desperately required the kinds of resources provided by the women's centre. She was instrumental in putting it together. If she cannot turn this cabinet and this government around, she should resign. It is the only position of integrity that she can take.

It is an extremely important issue. It is the first thing on which I wanted to speak in terms of regional development because it is absolutely critical. It is a first priority that half this population be in a position to enjoy and to obtain access to the benefits of the economy and the society in which we live. This government has blocked it in a very wrong-headed approach and hopefully it will change its position and provide adequate core funding to these organizations.

If it wants to involve the provinces, fine. Leave the funding in place until an agreement can be worked out with the provinces, but don't cut off the women in the communities of Canada from the kinds of services that allow them access to the economy, a decent position in the economy, and essentially fair play in this country.