

more accessible thanks to the advice of our new partners in the labour market.

The Unemployment Insurance Act was amended in order to channel a greater share of unemployment funds towards the training of the jobless. In this we followed the advice of our partners in the labour market. Unemployment funds used for training rose from \$500 million in 1990 to \$1.95 billion in 1992.

This is obviously a more productive use of unemployment funds, and that approach is fully supported by our partners in the labour market, that is all employers and workers who are the sole contributors in the unemployment insurance program.

In order to give our labour market partners a permanent role to play in the training policy and see to it that they always have a say in the matter, the Minister of Employment and Immigration has set up the Canadian Labour Force Development Board. Co-chaired by business and labour representatives, it is comprised of 22 members representing the labour unions, the business world and the academic circles. The most used groups in the labour force are also represented. There are members representing women, handicapped people, natives and visible minorities.

The mandate of this board is to help enhance training in Canada. That is something no government or agency can do alone. To enhance training, qualification standards have to be established through consensus between provinces. A network of provincial and territorial labour force development boards has also to be set up, as well as local boards, so that decisions concerning training be taken at the grass root level, as they should be.

These new partnerships between the private sector, Canadian individuals and governments are in my view critical for the prosperity and the economic well-being of Canada.

To ensure the social and economic well-being of Canada, governments must be ready to give up some of the control they have in these coveted areas of policy and program establishing. In light of the experience of other countries and the opinions expressed by the leaders of the labour unions, the business world and the academic circles, it appears that we have to act upon our partners' advice instead of considering them as mere advisors.

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Pathways to Success, the aboriginal employment and training strategy implemented by Employment and Immigration Canada, is a perfect example of the application of that principle. Thanks to this strategy, aboriginal training boards, which had a consultant role previously, have become full partners. Now aboriginal people are able to control their own destiny, with the required skills and the means to take action.

They are told: "Develop your own training programs and your own job creation projects, according to your particular needs and exclusively for your people". It is the first time that such a partnership is created. This partnership will ensure that training programs for aboriginal people are provided, managed and controlled by aboriginal people themselves, in collaboration with Employment and Immigration Canada.

This strategy is extremely beneficial to some 78 aboriginal groups across Canada. These groups are now able to allocate millions of dollars to training centres in their community so that their aboriginal clients can acquire the new skills that will allow them to find a job.

Last April the Minister of Employment and Immigration approved funding for four experimental sites: two in British Columbia and two in Ontario. Together, these four aboriginal management boards will provide training and job creation programs worth approximately \$21 million to some 5,000 clients over the next 18 months. This represents another important breakthrough in our efforts to develop partnerships for the future.

The creation of new partnerships with the private sector is of the utmost importance. In the past, the private sector including the business community, labour unions, social action groups and other non-governmental organizations did not have a specific role to play in the resolution of problems related to the labour market. In Canada we do not have a tradition like other countries do of putting aside differences to collaborate on matters of common interest, such as training.

But a consensus on training matters came out of the consultations which led to the labour force development strategy. That consensus offered the perspective of new approaches. Employment and Immigration Canada now follows up on this consensus by establishing new cooperation structures, like national native management com-