to tolerate. I heard her say that she expects the growth in the economy to be "slow and steady as she goes". I also note that in 1987 the unemployment rate through the year in British Columbia was 12 per cent and that that, in fact, as in seven of the other provinces across the country, was equal or higher than the levels of unemployment that prevailed at the time of the 1981-83 recession. There has been some improvement since the average for 1987. Even if—and this is unlikely—the unemployment rate were to stay at 10 per cent, I find that an unacceptable level of unemployment for British Columbia, which is my native province, or any other province for that matter.

Is the Member saying that it is okay to go slow and steady, to have economic growth and more or less just enough to keep unemployment from rising? It is expected to rise from the December levels during the course of 1988, according to the Finance Minister's statement. I am really surprised that the Hon. Member should become so insensitive to the impact of unemployment on her native province of British Columbia that she would be prepared to say that it is okay to tolerate a continuing level of unemployment at the level of 10 or 12 per cent in the Province of B.C.

Perhaps I have misunderstood. I certainly did not find in her speech any indication that there is a commitment to bring unemployment in British Columbia to full employment levels of perhaps 4.5 per cent, nor did I hear from the Finance Minister that there is any commitment to a real policy of full employment that will not just cover Mississauga and downtown Toronto but will also cover the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. Is the Member committed to full employment? If so, why is she prepared to tolerate a Budget that will keep unemployment at around 10 per cent in British Columbia from now until the 1990s?

**Mrs. Collins:** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to respond to my colleague. Perhaps he was not listening when I told him about the report which came out recently from the Investment Dealers' Association which indicates that employment will rise by 2.5 per cent over the next year. It is anticipated to be 1.3 million out of a total labour force of 1.5 million. It has been this Government's policies over the past three and a half years which have seen the reduction in unemployment in B.C. from 15.1 per cent down to 10.1 per cent. That is 5 percentage points based on the kinds of programs we have implemented and the kinds of tax policy we have had.

In addition, and I am sure my colleague is aware, I am sure he has been listening to what has been going on around this House, the Western Diversification Program will have $1.2 billion over the next five years. That is a special program to address the special needs of western Canada, including British Columbia. I have been involved in all sorts of very exciting and interesting proposals from the private sector which sector will look forward to taking opportunities whether through loans or different kinds of assistance and to creating jobs with that kind of program which the Government put in place to redress some of the difficulties in the western provinces and B.C. I think the economy in B.C. has been performing well, but unemployment has not come down as much as it has in other parts of the country.

The Western Diversification Fund is in addition to the over $325 million in economic regional development programs which are for the provinces in forestry areas, small business, science and technology. In addition to the science, research and investment programs which the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) has introduced, there are all sorts of programs, including programs from the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard).

I look at my own riding and the implications of the job strategy program which is for women who have been unemployed and out of the workforce, and through a relatively small expenditure we are giving them the skills and the confidence to get back into the workforce. I met a young woman the other day who had taken advantage of our program, the team program. She is a university graduate who had been out of work and she is now linked up with an employer with tremendous success through some of the initiatives under the job strategy that we have.

Then there is the introduction of the entrepreneurial program, which has been a particular advantage for British Columbia. We have certainly benefited from the new investment and jobs which that program has created. If you took every Minister across the front benches of this Government and the kinds of initiatives which they have introduced you would find that they have all worked to the advantage of ensuring economic performance for British Columbia and to jobs for British Columbians. It is the kind of record about which I am proud and which we will continue in the rest of this mandate.

**Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, in preparing my remarks for this Budget debate, I asked myself what the people of St. John's East looked for in a Budget of the Government of Canada. My conclusion was that the people of my riding expect to see two things. First, they expect to see honesty. Second, they expect to see fairness.

When I heard the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in the House brag about the economic performance of the country since 1984, particularly in two areas, the area of interest rates and the area of jobs, I asked myself why he did not admit that both of these categories of economic performance are not to the credit of his Government but, in fact, are factors which resulted from the recession that we were as a country a part of as was all of North America. We came out of that recession coincidentally with the election of the Conservative Government in 1984. But the recovery had started before that. The cyclical nature of the economy is such as we all know, recessions occur, the economy bottoms out and things come back again. Small children in Newfoundland know that the seasons change, that the tide comes in and the tide goes out.