

*Supply*

The reason for that is very simple. The reason is that when it comes to downsizing, the people who go first are the support services. Guess who are primarily the support services in the Government of Canada, by over 80 per cent? It is women and women earning small salaries.

We get rid of women who provide the support services and we pay three times as much to highly qualified professionals to do that person's clerical and support work. Does that make any sense in terms of efficiency and economy and productivity in government? Of course not.

We look at the RCMP. When the RCMP downsizes, it gets rid of the clerks and receptionists at its small stations. Then it has highly paid, highly trained RCMP officers doing their own typing. Does that make any sense? Of course not, but it is easier to get rid of women, is it not? That is what downsizing, what government policy has meant to women.

There is going to be further cutting of resources, further bringing in of technology. Suddenly when the typewriter is gone, the woman is gone. When the computer and the programming comes in, the man comes in.

These are the kinds of things we have got to look at when we see whether we have got a budget that is equally fair to men and women in Canadian society.

We look at increases in the Canada Pension Plan or the unemployment insurance premiums. Who pays those primarily? Because there is an income cap on those premiums, that increase is borne primarily by women because it is mostly women who are under the \$32,000 or \$34,000 limit on those programs. Above those limits, the premiums do not go up. You can be earning \$100,000 and your premiums are still the same as somebody earning \$30,000.

RRSPs. You can invest \$20,000 of your RRSP in buying your first home. When you are buying a first home, and you have got \$20,000 in an RRSP, I ask the House, what are you, male or female? A large proportion of the time it is going to be a male who can benefit from that program.

We reduce the surtax by 1 per cent. Who benefits most? Those highest income earners benefit most. One per cent means more on \$100,000 income than it does on a \$15,000 income. Who earns primarily the \$15,000 income? Women. Who earns primarily the \$100,000

income? Men. This budget benefits men to a much greater extent than women.

We lift the ceiling on small business loans, up \$100,000 to \$200,000. Mostly men starting small businesses borrow in that range. Women starting small businesses borrow much smaller amounts.

The increase on the ability to provide venture capital loans has increased in a range that is going to benefit men starting businesses far more than women starting businesses.

The tax incentives to research and development I suggest is worth a good gender equity analysis. The reduction in the manufacturing processing tax, who is that going to benefit? Who do cuts in corporate taxes benefit mostly? Not women.

We have a prosperity agenda. We have trade expositions. We have task forces that are 90 per cent men, according to the news releases I have seen coming from the ministers' offices. Those expeditions all over the world are going to continue and they are going to continue to be well-funded. It is not women who are going to benefit from that funding.

We have a regulatory review that is going to cost a lot of money. I ask you: Who is regulation designed to protect? Generally, regulation is designed to protect the weakest and the most vulnerable. That is true if it is a regulation that has been requested by business. Most regulations have been requested by business in the 125 years since Confederation, not by consumers and not by the general public, but by business to protect business. In any case, regulation generally protects those who can least protect themselves, and more often that is going to be women than men.

I think that kind of analysis of every dollar we spend is a commitment that any government has got to make to women. Who benefits from the \$165 billion we spend annually in this country? Who contributes most? Who benefits most? The lower income taxpayer contributes the large volume of tax money; the higher income tax earner gains most from public spending. If we truly want to address equity for women, the poverty of women and children, that is where we have got to start.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It being six o'clock p.m. it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 81(17) proceedings on the motion have expired.