

of support for the handicapped, the elderly, the infirm and the defenceless as evidence of the real progress of our society.

The people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso are independent. We are ordinary Canadians. We are proud to be led by the only Party in Canada that represents the ordinary Canadian. The Prime Minister and I have been honoured with the greatest PC vote ever in the history of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso. For this vote I am most grateful and I thank my constituents. My riding was represented just a few short months ago by the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Mr. MacEachen. He served his constituents and all Canadians with distinction. On behalf of the people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso it is appropriate that I acknowledge the contribution of Senator MacEachen and thank him for his years of service.

Cape Breton Highlands-Canso is a geographical, cultural and economic mosaic. It includes an important fishing industry with deep sea fleets sailing from Canso and Petit de Grat. These deep sea fishermen leave their families for a week or more to harvest the sea's bounty. It is hard work. These are independent persons who spend more of their adult lives at sea than on land. At the present time, they are struggling to make ends meet.

Many other constituents are hard working inshore fishermen who are also striving to meet the problems of their industry and to earn a living. These men are entrepreneurs. They own their boats. They risk their lives to make a living to provide for their families. These people talk straight. The people I represent need no education to identify hardship.

The people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso have distinguished themselves as the best pulp and paper workers in this country and among the best woodsmen in Canada.

The people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso enjoy one of the best public school systems in the world. Cape Breton Highlands-Canso is an area known for incomparable hospitality. This reputation greatly contributes to growth in our tourism industry. That is one reason, Mr. Speaker, that the Cabot Trail is one of Canada's leading tourist attractions. It is also a natural beauty surpassing in appeal any other attraction in Canada. The people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso have distinguished themselves as tradesmen, small businessmen and farmers. We view offshore oil and gas development as an opportunity and are working hard to realize its potential.

Despite these strengths, Mr. Speaker, we have been plagued by successive years of high unemployment and outward migration. In the thirties, forties and fifties, Nova Scotians left to seek employment in the United States and Ontario. Later they left for western Canada. Today we find there is no place to go. It is, as never before, imperative that our strengths be fully developed, that we strive for self-sufficiency, and that we achieve self-sufficiency.

On a daily basis my office deals with requests from many constituents looking for employment. These are people with families, children and spouses and with bills they cannot pay. That is why I ran for office and why they elected me, Mr.

*The Address—Mr. O'Neil*

Speaker. These people want jobs, and I am pleased that the Government has made job creation its priority.

On September 4, I was elected on a platform which called for the rejection of short-term make-work projects as an answer to unemployment. The people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso have rejected make-work projects as a long-term solution. They want permanent, meaningful jobs. I am confident that the new Government can meet that challenge. Indeed, it has already begun the task.

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In its Throne Speech, the Government identified our new approach. We are committed to getting this country moving quickly to achieve a new era of national reconciliation, to moving quickly to economic renewal, and to attaining greater levels of social justice.

I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister on his Cabinet selection. Nova Scotia's two Cabinet representatives, the Hon. Robert Coates and the Hon. Elmer Mackay, are distinguished parliamentarians and Nova Scotians. I am honoured to be here with them.

I have met with the Hon. Flora MacDonald, the Minister of Employment and Immigration. She has displayed an openness and empathy that was more than I could have anticipated. It is clear to all Canadians that she is a leader. I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister on his appointment of the Hon. Sinclair Stevens as the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. In our meetings, he too has displayed a driving commitment to developing areas most in need of economic activity. The Hon. Pat Carney, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has displayed a true commitment to East Coast energy development. The Hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Fraser) has also shown himself to be interested in solving the serious problems of the East Coast fishery. As Canadians, we are most fortunate to have such talented individuals willing to serve us.

I have heard members of the Opposition complain that Cape Breton has no private sector economy. That is why the previous government was defeated. It was the previous government that left that legacy. I know that the people of that area of Canada can develop a self-sustaining economy. We in the Progressive Conservative Party have confidence in the people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso. We have begun the process of attaining that result.

Our Government has established a new Ministry of Forestry, headed by a distinguished New Brunswick Member, the Hon. Gerald Merrithew. This appointment reflects our Government's decision to enhance the development of a renewable resource. It will mean long-term benefits for the people of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso. Our Government has established a new Ministry of Tourism headed by another distinguished Maritime Member, the Hon. Tom McMillan of Prince Edward Island. This commitment by our Government will result in a more rational development and orderly marketing of our tourism resources. That decision will result in an increased growth in our tourism sector.