

*Supply*

• (1730)

To make our institutions a vibrant reflection of this wide diversity in a spirit of fairness while acknowledging the differences, that is the challenge the federal government takes up day after day. But we realize that we cannot do it alone. We must work in concert with all the stakeholders. Together, we will build the necessary infrastructures while giving our continuing support day after day to the development of our communities and making sure that the English and French languages are fully recognized throughout the country. It is true that much still needs to be done, but we have come a long way.

A significant renewal of the Secretary of State Official Languages Program and Official Languages in Education Program was announced at the very time the provisions of the new Official Languages Act came into force, on September 15, 1988. These programs are designed to give concrete expression, in our everyday life, to the government's commitment to official language minority communities as well as promotion of linguistic duality.

Several initiatives were undertaken besides the Secretary of State programs to encourage other stakeholders in the official languages issue to work together and implement as widely as possible the federal government commitment. Co-operation was sought between the various federal departments and agencies, voluntary organizations and official language minority communities as well as provincial and territorial governments. I should point out here that the federal government is not working alone in the area of official languages and that the contribution of the provincial and territorial governments is increasingly significant. They are major partners in achieving our goals of linguistic duality.

Under the Official Languages Act, the federal government is committed to co-operate with the provincial and territorial governments, to foster the growth of the English-speaking and French-speaking minorities and to promote linguistic duality. Through the Secretary of State Official Languages in Education Program, government supports initiatives to teach these minorities in

their own language and encourage government to give every one the opportunity to learn English and French.

The federal government, also wants to co-operate with the provincial and territorial governments to foster the delivery of services in the language of the official language communities in areas such as social services, health services, legal services, cultural and recreational services, and to promote both official languages among all Canadians.

This co-operation, which started in the early 1980s as a one-time initiative, has considerably expanded since 1987. Master agreements signed with the provinces and territories have enabled the federal government to join forces with several of them to provide services in the language of the minority and to promote linguistic duality in other areas beside education.

Mr. Speaker, you need only look at the Secretary of State annual report on its mandate regarding official languages to realize how diversified this government's achievements are in promoting and protecting the official languages of Canada. The Secretary of State thus administers a support program for official language minorities' organizations and institutions. Through this program, financial assistance is provided to community organizations in each province and territory to enable them to participate fully to all aspects of society.

The program is aimed at five main areas. In terms of delivery of services, assistance is offered to provide some services in the language of the minority where such services do not exist. For instance, the government has supported the development and maintenance of community centers, the publication of newspapers in the language of the minority, commemorative days of all kinds, the creation of an outdoor activities center accessible to youngsters and adults, French schools and immersion schools, organizations, businesses and the entire franco-phone community in Alberta, as well as the establishment of day-care services.

Second, assistance is provided to preserve existing community institutions and encourage the involvement of the community in their operation. New institutions will be established if need be to meet the needs of the community and help the people. In Vancouver, for example, with the support of the federal government, the "Maison de la Francophonie" was established to group together under the same roof all the francophone