

Routine Proceedings

I am especially pleased today to announce this plan, which is an increase in funding for the developmental uses of the unemployment insurance program. We will be allocating \$1.8 billion in 1992 to support training and other adjustment programs for unemployed Canadians.

These programs will be available to UI claimants to assist them in getting more permanent high wage and high skills jobs to make them and all Canadians more competitive and more prosperous.

Funding for training and other adjustment measures was increased as a result of changes to the UI act in November 1990. These changes to the act reflect the government's commitment to prosperity. This is the prosperity message which, by the way, my colleague the Minister for International Trade and the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and I announced on Tuesday.

This 1992 expenditure plan for developmental uses, which I am tabling today, provides a comprehensive picture of why and how these expenditures will be made. This is an historic development. It is the first time in Canadian history that business, labour, educators and social action groups formally acting together in partnership as the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, have made a joint recommendation to government.

The government has accepted in full the board's recommendations. The government's labour force development strategy, in seeking to establish a new partnership in Canada, has today delivered hard evidence that, yes, partnerships are possible and work, and the benefits of collaborating can be substantial and positive for all.

The labour force development strategy, an exercise of the mandate the government gave to this new board last year, represents an historic departure in the making of national economic policy. No one can fail to be impressed with how our major competitors derive substantial economic and social benefits from real partnerships between labour and management.

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The Prime Minister of Canada, my predecessor at employment and immigration and many others in government, key figures in business and labour provided

real leadership over the last two years in pressing for this new level of co-operation.

We can all take pride in this accomplishment today, in seeing the reality of the partners working closely together. It is a landmark in the evolution of the relationship between management and labour in Canada in this century. It provides ample evidence of the government acting when action is called for. It is a self-evident truth that some fundamental changes in Canadian society cannot be effected by government fiat or acts.

If the hon. member opposite and especially the hon. Leader of the Opposition would take the time to read their briefing notes or, better still, read those two discussion papers which we tabled Tuesday on prosperity, he and they would better understand this truth. When you hear them speak they want Canadians to believe—

[*Translation*]

They want the people in my riding to believe that the government can solve all the problems of our economy.

[*English*]

These documents are trying not to do that.

Competitiveness and prosperity cannot be achieved by actions of government alone.

[*Translation*]

That is not the way to competitiveness and prosperity.

After reading the two papers we tabled last Tuesday, hon. members will realize we cannot force Canadians to learn. Governments as such cannot create a learning culture or in any way impose one on Canadians.

The federal government has given Canadians all the facts. We have explained clearly and concisely what the costs and consequences will be if we refuse to learn on a continuing basis. We also explained all the benefits that accrue from acquiring knowledge and skills.

It is now up to Canadians to choose. They will also have to decide what other changes in attitude and behaviour we will all have to consider if we want to ensure our future prosperity. Starting a dialogue and forging a consensus for truly concerted action are goals recommended by experts throughout the world, not just here in Canada, to all peoples and all nations. It is also