

Another option, the community initiatives fund, matches support from other sources for local projects by local people designed to generate new and permanent jobs.

Finally, there is relocation and travel assistance which provides up to \$5,000 to help unemployed people to find work in another community.

In other countries self-employed and entrepreneurship programs have produced significant results, helping many individuals and communities achieve self-sufficiency and prosperity. In Canada these programs have been especially successful among the social assistance recipients, turning welfare cases into business people who not only support themselves but also create jobs for other Canadians. This kind of success is why the Labour Force Development Strategy will be supporting more Canadians who choose to take the plunge and work for themselves.

I must add that under Bill C-21, the government is also enhancing relocation assistance for unemployed Canadians who want to move to areas with more job opportunities. We are extending the concept of capitalizing unemployment benefits for this purpose providing up to \$15,000, a figure that more accurately reflects the cost of moving a household today to help unemployed people go where they want to work.

Through the Labour Force Development Strategy, these vital self-employment and mobility programs will be significantly reinforced.

There is another program that also serves to support the local enterprise. The Innovations Program is a Labour Market Research and Development arm of the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Under Innovations, test models have been particularly effective in creating economically viable employment avenues for disabled persons, aboriginal people, visible minorities, social assistance recipients, and young people encountering difficulties making the transition from school to work.

A good example is the Youth Employment Skills Program. This program was tested in Halifax and St. Catharines, Ontario, in Winnipeg, and in Vancouver before incorporation into the broader Canadian Jobs Strategy Program framework. A \$4.3 million Innovations contract funded the test phases and produced English and French versions of the Youth Employment Canada curriculum.

### *Private Members' Business*

These examples illustrate the approach that the government has committed itself to fostering local co-operation to produce local solutions to local problems. It is a coincidence that since 1984 employment has risen in every region of Canada, in fact, in seven provinces by more than 10 per cent.

I am sure many members of this House are aware of what has been accomplished and why their constituents, during the last five years, seem to be quite pleased with what we are doing.

As the motion states, investment and initiative should come from labour groups, economic development corporations, councils, small business, farmers and local government offices in communities across Canada.

In this regard, the industrial adjustment service, Community Futures, and other federal government initiatives, under the Labour Force Development Strategy, are establishing a co-operative, pro-active framework to deal with the inevitable industrial and sectoral adjustments at the local level. Their success in revitalizing companies and communities is directly related to the involvement of the very people in the whole exercise who matter the most: The local employers, workers, representatives, and community leaders.

That involvement by Canadians is a primary reason for the economic progress which has defined this government's economic stewardship.

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Mr. Speaker, my comments are going to be very brief, but I felt that I should rise this evening and speak to the motion that is before us.

My first reaction was that it was very philosophical and idealistic, but on the other hand, I started thinking back exactly the things that are being mentioned in the motion this evening. Co-operatives are not something new in Canada. Co-operatives have been around for as long as I can possibly remember, whether it is in the housing market or whether it is in the food industry or in the farming industry, and there have been many of them. The co-operative industry is something that Canada has based itself on for these good many years and has grown the stronger because of it.

The reason I felt that I should speak this evening was because the hon. member mentioned the regional and municipal governments and how they should be involved. My background is 10 years in that area. I know