

Canada Employment Service and the North Island community college system, trying to get workforce re-entry programs for women and attempting to get training programs for women who were looking for employment.

There has been a great deal of initiative in that community for training programs, be they in traditional employment for women or even in non-traditional activities. There are women training as electricians, welders and working in those trades today in very, very small numbers. There is a need for greater access. These women's centres have done an enormous job in breaking down those barriers, but they have just simply started the procedure.

The cut in the case of the Campbell River example was \$25,000. That \$25,000 was probably the best dollar value this government ever got for anything. That \$25,000 a year put together a hard working board of directors, three paid staff members who were essentially doing a tremendous professional job for peanuts. It paid for the rent of an office and all the utilities and the equipment in it. Ultimately the \$25,000 represented a 100 per cent cut in government funding and all that is there today is an answering service which states that the federal government put out of business this women's centre and all the services it provided to the community.

We cannot have a regional development program without the human resource development aspect of it. What the government is telling us is that 50 per cent of the people in the community, the women in that community, are not going to be provided with the assistance to get into the job market. They are not going to be provided with the incentive and the opportunity to get into training and retraining programs, that the counselling and referral services that were provided through that agency are not going to be part of it. What the government is saying to Canadians is that 50 per cent of the population do not count in regional development and do not have that access.

In addition to the direct programs related to employment, there is also the question of individual and family support. Women today bear the responsibility for fami-

lies in many, many cases. Of course the most serious example is the single parent attempting to raise children.

This women's resource centre fought continuously to attempt to get community child care resources enhanced so that a woman who wanted to gain training and go to work knew that her children would have safe, dependable child care at a cost that she could afford. This community resource centre fought for that. The Conservative government promised to put it in place and has now reneged on it. Not only has the government reneged on it, but it is proposing to cap Canada Assistance Plan funding that funds the child care centres. It is absolutely unconscionable activity.

There is no doubt that people equate the government with the remarks on more than one occasion of the Minister for International Trade who shows that he does not understand the issue. By association with him and with the cuts, they believe the government does not understand the issue. It is important that it does some work on this and turns it around.

It is extremely sad that the minister who is now responsible for the status of women happened to think that the remark made by the Minister for International Trade was funny. It is an absolutely ridiculous situation. Again, as my colleagues say, the government has no understanding of the requirements of women, of the respect of individuals, or of the need to provide the opportunity to gain access.

• (1650)

It is ironic that the present minister responsible for the status of women was one of the people instrumental in putting the women's resource centre together. The present minister responsible for the status of women was a key individual in organizing the Campbell River and District Women's Resource Centre. She went through the community with others, got this organized on the basis that it was a serious and desperately needed resource for the community, and can turn around today and support the role of the government in making 100 per cent cuts and putting these organizations out of business. Not only is that not acceptable, but it is an incredible act of hypocrisy.

Although it may drift an inch or two from the topic at hand, that community resource centre along with those in Port Alberni, Courtenay and all over Canada, were not only involved in the economic and employment side