

starting to bear fruit. There is no doubt about that. The results indicate people are joining the labour force, or entering the labour force for the first time, or being retrained where their jobs have become obsolete. We are spending \$6 billion this year and next year on training alone, and that is very important. A large component of that goes to women.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): A supplementary, Madam Speaker. The government continues to talk about maybe a recovery in 1992, maybe in the middle of 1992. It used to be the church that asked us to wait for the afterlife and now it is this government.

Every day there are women and families in this country just struggling to get through the day. On this day of action and remembrance, what is the government prepared to do to make economic options available for women, both young women trapped in abusive relationships and older women who have fewer and fewer options because of the economic policies of this government?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Madam Speaker, perhaps I could respond to the leader of the NDP because I think a lot is happening.

As my hon. colleague has already mentioned, we look at the focus within the Labour Force Development Program to ensure that women have opportunities for training and retraining. We are focusing, of course, on a wide variety of initiatives on education and information, on issues relating to violence to assist women.

The family violence program itself, of \$136 million, is focusing on a wide range of activities and supporting women throughout the country. Indeed, this very morning, the Minister of National Health and Welfare announced a program in co-operation with the YWCAs across the country, as a community-based model of education and public awareness to assist women dealing with issues relating to violence against women.

We do not have all the answers but I think in this sort of co-operative spirit which has developed on this issue in this House, we jointly are truly trying to search for them.

Oral Questions

GUN CONTROL

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Justice.

Bill C-17, the bill on gun control, was passed by the Senate and given royal assent yesterday. However, as you know, it will not be operative until the regulations are tabled and the law is proclaimed by Order in Council.

Canadians, especially women, want quick action on this matter. When will the regulations on the gun control bill be tabled and when will the law be proclaimed? What is the government's timetable?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Justice, I can assure all members that she is committed to moving this process ahead just as quickly as possible.

In fact, I understand her officials will be working through the Christmas period in order to get those regulations developed and bring them back to the House just as quickly as the House resumes. As you know, there is provision for them to go back to committee. However, it is our hope that those regulations can be in effect as early in the new year as possible.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, that is not enough. We want a very specific timetable.

[Translation]

Last year in Canada, 234 women were killed—74 by their husbands. In Quebec, there has been an 8.3 per cent increase in violent crimes against women. Although Bill C-17, the gun control bill, was adopted yesterday, there are still some serious gaps in our legislation.

Does the government intend to keep monitoring the situation to find out whether the legislation is truly effective against these violent crimes? What are the government's plans in this respect?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Youth), Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, as my colleague pointed out a few minutes ago, in the other language, the bill was