

Private Members' Business

1984. It was tragic. Funding was cut not only in half but greater than half.

The Tory government then got in. It was going to show that it could do even better, that it could cut more and cut faster. By 1990 it had taken the \$237,000 and reduced it to \$146,000, where it has been frozen. There is now no comprehensive program in Canada without that.

The Speaker is indicating that my time is running out. I think it is tragic that there is no program, particularly because of the fact that the cost benefit ratio has been shown to be one to ten.

It is also a personal tragedy. I think this bill would go a long way toward restoring these programs and helping women and other young people deal with it on a very positive basis.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for External Relations and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Madam Speaker, the Department of National Health and Welfare Canada recognizes the need for programs in the area of sexuality education and family planning, especially for young people.

The Health Promotion Contribution Program under the health promotion fund provides funding to community based projects. Since 1983 the Health Promotion Contribution Program has dedicated over \$2 million to projects related to reproductive health, including fertility and family planning. One project is the development of a national sexuality information resource centre and clearing-house by Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada.

To assist Planned Parenthood in its endeavour to reach this goal, the Department of National Health and Welfare Canada, through the Health Promotion Contribution Program, was able to direct \$314,000 to Planned Parenthood, to conduct a structured needs assessment and to begin the development of the sexuality information resource centre and clearing-house. These funds have allowed Planned Parenthood not only to conduct a needs assessment but to begin the development of the centre.

The purpose of this project is to fill a gap in the information services available and to assist educators who work with individuals in family life education.

The need to co-ordinate quality information about human sexuality has been indicated by many organizations.

Planned Parenthood is now working hard to raise funds from individual, foundation and corporate sources to cover the high start-up costs of the resource centre and the clearing-house function. Many clearing-houses have shared this challenge of finding and maintaining funding sources.

The Department of National Health and Welfare supports the intent of the resource centre and clearing-house and encourages all sectors to show commitment to this worth-while project. In Canada we are fortunate to have the voluntary sector play such an important role in health care. This is in keeping with our philosophy of fostering public participation and strengthening community response to health needs.

There are many other projects related to reproductive health funded through the Health Promotion Contribution Program. For example, a child abuse prevention training kit for day care workers; a community resource kit on new reproductive technologies; a northern child-birth workshop for women and their families; a needs assessment and plan of action for women in menopause; and a maritime parent sexuality education project.

The health promotion fund manages the AIDS Community Program known as "ACAP". This program funds projects that strengthen community participation, intersectoral co-ordination and evaluation in addressing HIV-AIDS issues.

Within the education and awareness initiatives supported by this program, several focus on the enhancement of negotiating skills and behavior change.

Two such projects, "Sex without AIDS today", sponsored by the Faculty of Nursing of the University, of New Brunswick, and "Talking sex on campus", sponsored by the Faculty of Nursing Student Council of the University of Toronto, focus on skill building and the adoption of safer sex behaviour by students.