

New Brunswick and First Nations on the Constitution. I could go on and on.

I have a colleague here who is very interested in multiculturalism, my colleague from Saint-Laurent, and they are doing some very important research in the field of multiculturalism and citizenship for Canada, state of the art review of research related to that and the drawing together of all the documents of a serious import in this field.

If we look at the kind of work that has been done, we would understand why increasing interest in Canada has been fueled by the humanity and social sciences, so that by the mid-seventies a consensus emerged concerning the need for a separate agency. The results are impressive and I have just given some sense of what was so impressive; women and work, the condition of children, aging, ethics, values, Canadian literature and the list goes on.

A jury system was put in place that worked collaboratively with the universities and some post-secondary colleges. That nurtured the whole system and was very productive. Perhaps the most striking initiative is associated with the maturing of all these research fields, that of involving the collaborative efforts with the Canadian university scholars and scholars from around the world in the fields of science and engineering and medicine.

Such efforts reflect a growing awareness of the connection between these various disciplines. It is an inherent wholeness of truly important matters as we have had increased learning which demonstrates the innate relationships between these various fields of study that pervade the thought in today's society of issues that seemingly were unconnected as early on as the seventies.

This merger has caused serious consternation and a degree of unease in the arts and scientific communities for similar and yet different but very legitimate reasons. The social sciences and humanities research community was pleased by the government's commitment to a 4 per cent increase per year in its budget for the next four years. Unfortunately, yesterday's economic statement broke that promise for at least the next two years.

They are still waiting, it is true, for an affirmation that all future budgets will be reviewed by the government

and studied as separate estimates from that of the Canada Council which they have joined and in tandem with the budgets of the two other research councils, NSERC and MRC, to use their acronyms. Of particular interest are the communities concerned with program integration. Above all, it is concerned with its identity. Research, although having evident cultural dimensions, is not the same as the pursuit of the fine arts.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to point out to you that at the same time as the Canada Council has serious concerns as does SSHRC, Canada Council—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Maybe the Chair could rise for a minute and the hon. member would have an opportunity to check exactly what she would like to do.

Mrs. Finestone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There seems to be a move afoot to have a move done and I will do the deed when I get to the point where I am supposed to do the deed. Mr. Speaker, you will please advise me when that moment comes. Thank you very much.

This is very serious business because the culture of this House is part of the culture of this country. The Canada Council is also involved in this whole merger. It has serious concerns because the Canada Council addresses the concerns of the development of the arts community and it develops the essence of who we are as Canadians.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, it is the key to the creation of a vibrant Canadian culture which is essential to the reaffirmation of our nationhood and our sovereignty while the preservation and the exposition of our cultural heritage gives visual expression to our common history of experience and our common values and the diverse linguistic and cultural identities that mark our distinctiveness in the world of nations. It involves our writers, actors, singers, musicians and artists.

I want to advise that artists earn on average less than \$1,400 a month. They need advocacy so that their role in this country can be appreciated. The advocacy organizations such as the Canadian Conference on the Arts and the Canadian Museums Association have suffered a 10 per cent cut. I think that demonstrates this government's lack of will to hear from the constituencies about the need of all our creative Canadians across this country.