

training and landing of people who come as domestics. I want to improve the program further.

• (1450)

We have undertaken extensive consultations with immigrant women's groups across Canada, including a couple of groups from the hon. member's own city. I hope to be announcing changes to the program in the not too distant future.

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the minister that women's groups indeed are still writing of their concern in this area and we want action. Today would have been an ideal day to have that action.

Immigrant women who need language training while they are at home with their young children find that the Settlement Language Training Program of the minister's department is a good program but is really too selective in choosing participants and training programs lack continuity.

Will the minister consult immigrant women's groups about this matter and will she adopt guidelines to make this important program more effective?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, once again this is a program that was introduced by this government. Language training for women who remained at home was something that had not existed before. It was introduced as a pilot project and is in the process of becoming a permanent program with additional funding. We will continue, as we have from the beginning, to consult with immigrant women's groups across Canada to ensure that we continue to make it better.

Let me remind the hon. member that the programs for women, and particularly immigrant women and women in some of the more sensitive areas of doubly disadvantaged groups, are not something one waves a banner for on International Women's Day. They are something we work at every single day, all year long.

### *Oral Questions*

#### **EQUALITY OF WOMEN**

**Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the status of women. Since 1984 women in this country have been looking to this government for leadership in establishing a greater degree of equality and fairness in our society. Can the minister tell this House what this government has done and what this government is prepared to do to help the women of Canada attain the equality they seek and deserve?

**Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women):** Mr. Speaker, that is a very good question. Unfortunately it would take me an hour to outline the kinds of initiatives that this government has taken and will be taking to ensure equality.

Let me just mention a couple taken in the last five years, things that I have been involved in as a Member of Parliament which I think have been terribly important. There were the amendments to the Indian Act to give native women back their rights. There were the amendments to the Family Orders Enforcement Assistance Act to ensure that we can go after those who abandon their families. There has been the introduction of employment equity. We have heard today from the Minister of Employment and Immigration on the work for immigrant women.

There are a whole variety of initiatives, legislation and actions which we have undertaken and will continue to undertake to ensure women's equality in this country.

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#### **HAMILTON HARBOUR COMMISSION**

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Yesterday the minister asked for the facts. Well, they are clear and they are on the record. The Chairman of the Hamilton Harbour Commission, Peter Lush, admits that he is in a conflict of interest. He has declared that he would not have become a commissioner if it meant giving up his exclusive listings which the harbour commissioner was interested in.