

Adjournment Debate

Last week the base commander, Captain Jones, met with the people in the area to explain what this drop in recruits would mean. It means that the military staff at the recruit school would be reduced. It means that the amount of money spent in the area would be reduced. It is stated that it will drop from the anticipated \$26 million that would have been spent in the area if the base were continuing in the operation mode it has been under an aggressive Armed Forces.

It is a question of fairness. Why is the minister closing bases when he is giving money to other facilities that resemble ours and that have the capacity to take on that new role? I repeat to you, Cornwallis started as a naval base.

I have tried, as an experienced member of Parliament representing an area that is very dependent on this base, to ask for other things on behalf of my constituents. One of the programs is the YTEP program which would bring in youth and encourage youth from across Canada who are unemployed to join the Armed Forces for a period of 15 months and receive training. This would keep Cornwallis going while we see, in the future, new recruits.

We have had a program and a proposal submitted to the Prime Minister on a peacekeeping training centre for Cornwallis. We have asked for more reserves and more militia to be sent to Cornwallis now that the militia and the reserves will be increased.

The minister is asking me about my time. I started at seven minutes after, Madam Speaker, and it is only ten after. I think if you check with the table you will see that there is still time left.

Madam Deputy Speaker: There might be 30 seconds left.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): I do not like to see someone standing and someone else looking at me as if I have to stop before the time has expired.

This is important and I cannot help it if the House is in such a hurry to give me an answer when my constituents, the 20,000 people who are dependent on CFB Cornwallis, are seeing policies that are not helping the nation,

that have not really helped the defence policy, zig-zagging back and forth. We have produced constructive proposals to help the area and yet we are seeing the layoffs, we are seeing the reduction in the base and the recruits.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Out of the six minutes there might be 30 seconds left for the hon. parliamentary secretary.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for External Relations and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Madam Speaker, in Question Period on September 24, the Hon. Marcel Masse clearly indicated that the mandate of the advisory group on defence infrastructure was to draw up a list of criteria for restructuring the Canadian Forces and that this mandate did not extend to existing programs.

The planned naval reserve for Pointe-à-Carcy, Quebec is one of these existing programs. In fact, the plan to develop a fleet school for the Canadian Forces in Quebec City was initiated in 1982, when the project for a naval presence in Quebec was announced. The Canadian Forces fleet school project in Pointe-à-Carcy is already in phase III of the commitment made in 1982. Facilities for training the naval reserve that will operate the new fleet of ships dedicated to coastal defence have been built.

Quebec City was chosen for these facilities on the basis of cost and efficiency. Most reservists live in central Canada. The Pointe-à-Carcy site saves the reservists travel time and expense. Moreover, it will reduce the total cost by bringing together in one and the same complex various organizations located in different places in Quebec City. These organizations are the Naval Reserve Headquarters, the Naval Reserve Division and two cadet corps.

The naval reserve must have the resources it needs to carry out its many tasks and to acquire the skills needed for coastal defence and for the control of commercial shipping in our ports and waters.