

Supply

to work in western Canada. I think we have got the minister to do that.

We have got a minister who really is important. He works hard and he is very influential at the cabinet table. We have got a minister with a mandate for change and for addressing the regional development challenge in western Canada. And we want to eliminate the disparity between western Canada and elsewhere. We want to make everybody the same. In the budget we looked at what has happened to the ACOA program. We are finally getting a level playing field, which is the terminology everybody is using.

We can talk about the fact that we have put \$1.2 billion into western diversification. Instead of wasting the money that was in all these other programs we are bringing it in so that the private sector has the opportunity to go out and create jobs.

Through the leadership of the minister we put together a program. We have 313 person-years in all of the western diversification programs. If any members from western Canada have an opportunity to do any business with WD they will find that they get those programs turned around right away. They are not buried. They are not lost on somebody's desk or in somebody's file. We have a turnaround time to put that stuff back out on the table and if it is a good project that really works, it is done. No more bureaucrats sitting around playing games. We have a job to do and we are going to do it.

Where are the offices of the deputy minister? They are in western Canada. No longer are the offices looking after development in western Canada situated in Ottawa or Toronto. They are in western Canada, exactly where it should be. There are regional offices throughout western Canada. In each of the major centres we have an office which handles the Western Diversification Fund, and they do it quite well.

We also go into risk sharing. We take a look at the projects that are coming up. I will use one in my own riding as an example because it is one of the best examples I can find. We have a company coming in which is going to spend well over \$100 million looking into what we can do in research and development.

The first phase is the risk sharing. We understand the company is spending a lot of money and we are risk sharing. If the project is successful, we get the money back. If the project is expanded, we have decided that western diversification should become a participant in

phase two of this project. If it is successful we will have well over 400 jobs in the community within the expansion program itself.

Think of the spin-off coming out of that. If we have 400 jobs at the plant, what happens outside with all the service industries, the grocery stores, the school teachers, everything that is involved. This is mainly due to western diversification.

We do take risks and I think it is important to take risks. We have to understand that the private sector involved in making decisions, and some very risky decisions, and we are prepared to do that as well. Rest assured that when those decisions are made, they are good decisions. They are not far out decisions. I would think that, in most cases, being Conservative, we make rather conservative decisions in situations like this.

From what I understand, less than 2 per cent of the funds that have been put forth by WD so far are in risk. That is a pretty good rate. I do not think any of the other development programs which will be putting money out and looking to getting it back could say the same. Western diversification is a very tight ship.

I think the whole concept has to do with the attitude of western Canada. Western Canadians do not look for hand-outs. They look for help when it is needed and when they do get help they put their best foot forward. Far too often in the the late seventies and early eighties everybody had their hand out. We do not like that in western Canada. We have had enough of that attitude in western Canada. Development in western Canada is going to be done with the help of government funding, but not with only government funding.

That is the attitude that we should have throughout Canada. No longer should a businessman come to the government and say, "I've got a great idea for a project, but I need your money". Western diversification is prepared to help, we are not prepared to give. That is important because those projects in which everyone is involved work a heck of a lot better than the ones where there is just grant money. I think we should keep this up.

There is a lot of procurement in western Canada through the direction of WD and a lot on the initiatives of three prairie provinces. We know that government spends a lot of money. But now, through WD, if there is an initiative in place we want procurement to be equal throughout western Canada. We want things to work