

management. Our Government has also signed important forestry sub-agreements with each of the Atlantic provinces.

The Government is pushing onward toward a better future for Atlantic Canada. The Speech from the Throne presents new initiatives in the Government's efforts to ensure that we in Atlantic Canada are protected and supported. The creation of an Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is good news. No longer will we have umpteen different programs being administered by umpteen different bureaucratic agencies. This totally new agency will facilitate and co-ordinate all federal development initiatives in the entire Atlantic region. As a result, our region will be supported more effectively and with greater sensitivity to local conditions and opportunities. This revised approach clearly recognizes that solutions cannot be arbitrarily imposed from Ottawa as they have been in the past.

The contribution of Atlantic Ministers and local entrepreneurs to policy and program development will be acknowledged and developed.

Our Government, led by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), set out in September, 1984 to accomplish some very serious challenges. We are now at the halfway point of our first term, and when I look at how far we have come in those two short years, I can stand in this House and say with honesty and pride that this is truly a Government that is promoting national reconciliation and unity. It is working hard to achieve a sustained economic recovery, it adheres to and actively promotes social justice, and it has gone far in maintaining the excellent regard held for Canada throughout the entire world. These were the four main targets outlined in the first Throne Speech. Today, we are closer to achieving these goals than we have ever been before.

The Speech from the Throne that we heard yesterday reconfirms our determination to pursue these national objectives with the confidence that they will result in a better Canada for us all.

I would be somewhat remiss if I failed to describe to this House one of the most beautiful parts of Canada, especially at this time of year, the northernmost riding in New Brunswick. Restigouche covers over 8,000 square kilometres and stretches along the Quebec border from St. Quentin to Beresford. The largest population centres are the City of Campbellton and the town of Dalhousie and our major industries include forestry, mining, tourism, fishing and small business. The Restigouche River, from which the riding derives its name, is known the world over for its great Atlantic salmon angling.

In preparing for this speech, I went to the library and looked up some old statistics on Restigouche. I discovered that the issues which pertain to my riding today were very much alive back then, too. High levels of unemployment have plagued northern New Brunswick for so long now that we think of it as a way of life. Many people in Restigouche have been conditioned over the years to expect no more than 10 weeks of work a year so that they can collect their UI benefits. We have no choice but to break this never-ending downward spiral if we

are ever going to see new economic life for the north shore of New Brunswick. The most recent statistics show that north-eastern New Brunswick not only has the highest rate of unemployment in the province, it has the seventh highest of the 70 regions that make up Canada. Clearly, more has to be done for the good people of Restigouche, and more will be done by a Progressive Conservative Government.

[Translation]

The Cabinet now includes two Ministers from New Brunswick who are responsible for four portfolios: Forests and Mines, as well as Small Businesses and Tourism. These portfolios play an extremely important role in the economy of Restigouche. I am certain that these two Ministers will do everything in their power to meet the needs of my region, which was neglected for a long time in the past.

[English]

With the new incentives that are already on line and those mentioned in the Throne Speech, there is no reason why Restigouche cannot share in the prosperity that rightfully belongs there as well as anywhere in this great nation. We have all the basic components of a real success story for Restigouche. The necessary infrastructure is already in place just waiting to be used to full capacity. Transport Canada says that we have one of the best regionally operated airports in Canada located at Charlo in the centre of the constituency. At present, Canadian Pacific has a direct flight from Toronto with a short stop in Montreal six times a week and Air Bras d'Or connects Charlo to many other points throughout the Maritimes.

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There are two excellent deep-water ports in Restigouche, one of which is open year-round. The ports of Dalhousie and Belledune are ready and able to handle increased cargo movement. In fact, over \$4.1 million has just gone into the repairs of the port at Dalhousie.

The constituency is supported by a railroad with Campbellton as the centre of operations for the entire region. Ten years ago we had approximately 1,100 people working for CN out of Campbellton. Today, Mr. Speaker, we only have 340. This, needless to say, has not helped my region.

Along with the bountiful resources which exist in Restigouche we have human resources as well. With only 50 per cent of the work force employed, we have an abundance of people ready to work. The residents of Restigouche are proud and hard-working people. The largest export in northern New Brunswick has been its young people. Mr. Speaker, my constituents do not want to move to central Canada in search of jobs. They want an opportunity to earn a living in their own area. Most people in Restigouche simply want to earn an honest day's wage for an honest day's work. If any progress is going to be made in such an economically depressed area, drastic measures are required.