

CBC and in exploration incentive programs. We also note there are no new measures to stimulate economic development in this province.

[*English*]

This budget offers absolutely no relief for northern Canadians. In Whitehorse, one of the cities that is generally studied to see the cost of an average food basket, the food basket is fully one third higher than any other city in Canada. That does not tell the real tale, because if you went further north into the eastern Arctic and smaller communities north of my home community, that would be doubled and tripled. What do we see in this budget? We see cuts to Indian and Inuit programs. Cuts to health and post-secondary education. The cancellation of the Polar 8 ice-breaker. An end to the Canadian exploration initiative program. Once again, the interests of the north are overlooked.

I just learned this morning from the National Executive of the Native Communications Program that their funding is in serious jeopardy. The Northern Native Broadcast Access Program will be cut by some 15 to 16 per cent. These are programs that have been praised by UNESCO and by CIDA, known around the world for their high quality. What do these programs do? These programs give a voice to aboriginal people and they do even more.

I would just like to cite an example of a radio station serving northern Ontario, it is the Waterway Radio Service, where trail radios are used in remote communities by hunters and trappers to call for help in emergency situations. Every year hundreds of lives are saved by the trail radio service. There are 30 community radio stations that will no longer receive regular maintenance and could be drastically cut by these cuts to this budget. This is equally true for other native communications that are going to be hit by this cost reduction. It could very much affect the kinds of broadcasting, award winning broadcasting. The Inuit Broadcasting Corporation wins awards around the world. But we are going to cut it. CFWE in Lac-la-Biche, Alberta; SHON-FM in Whitehorse and CKNM in Yellowknife, among others, will be permanently crippled by these reductions.

### *The Budget*

Surely, we have a responsibility to ensure that Canada's First Nations have a system of communication, of support which will enable them to continue to advance toward their goals. I would say as well, that much of these native communications systems not just serve aboriginal people, they serve the whole community. In my community alone, this system of communication serves the whole community. So we are cutting a service to many of the northern and remote areas of this country that serves all residents of those areas.

This is a serious attack on Canada's aboriginal people and it will be devastating for many of the communities.

The finance minister, as I mentioned earlier, has also chosen to ignore the devastation facing prairie farmers. Nothing is being done to avert the farm crisis. We have family farms there that are in a situation of Third World debt. They are not going to be able to get out of it.

As we sit here today, a country that loses sovereignty over its food supply loses its sovereignty, Mr. Speaker. The family farm is threatened, rural communities are threatened. Last year 25,000 people were forced to leave Saskatchewan. For the good of this country, we must save our family farms. We have to keep our farmers on the land. It is our legacy to the children and we must do that. But this budget does not even begin to do it.

We see a budget that projects an increase in unemployment. It is almost unbelievable that we have a budget that states that there are going to be more unemployed. There is no retraining funding, no jobs strategies, nothing in this budget to help the 1.25 million Canadians who are unemployed. Not only is this government doing nothing, but as I say it is predicting higher unemployment, an unemployment rate of 8.5 per cent over the next couple of years. That is 100,000 additional unemployed each year.

This government seems to feel that work is a luxury, that somehow in hard times we just kind of do away with it. But this is about families. This is about the dignity of work, the dignity of families, people contributing in a productive way to our society. Unemployment is about causing family breakdown, social problems and losing all of the productivity that the unemployed could be giving to our society.