

*Supply*

The evidence we have is that this plan will not be announced for a number of weeks yet.

I have here a copy of a draft letter, a letter drafted for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté). This is a draft letter that was supposed to have gone out to 30 business leaders in western Canada. As of noon yesterday, it had not yet gone out, according to my very reliable sources who have given me a copy of this particular letter.

In this letter, the Minister points out that "executives from leading firms across western Canada will be contacted shortly by officials of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion to arrange a mutually acceptable time for an intensive consultation on opportunities for diversifying the economy of western Canada".

I am very happy that they are doing that, Mr. Speaker, but again the whole process has been delayed many, many weeks.

The letter goes on to say: "As Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, I am now launching a major consultation effort with the private sector to move toward this objective. These consultations will provide an opportunity for Canadian industry, in partnership with Government, to identify major opportunities and constraints to diversification in the manufacturing and service sectors in western Canada, and the measures industry and Government might initiate to take action on these opportunities and constraints".

As he states in his letter, Mr. Speaker, he is talking about diversifying, not only agriculture or mining and resources, but the manufacturing and service sectors.

After two or three pages, he concludes: "It is my hope that you will fully support this initiative by becoming a participant in exploring the opportunities that exist within western Canadian industry and in helping us to develop appropriate policies, programs and other initiatives that will assist in achieving the diversification objectives for western Canada."

This is a letter, Mr. Speaker, that, as of yesterday, had not yet gone out. So the whole process of consultation with the business community has not even started.

According to another leaked document, that process was supposed to have been completed by June 12. It was to start on April 22 and be completed on June 12. As things stand, the process has not even started.

Many times we have asked the Government, Mr. Speaker, what it is looking at in terms of diversification, and the lack of an answer in that regard I know is one of the frustrations of the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona. I wish to announce in the House today the sectors that the federal Government is looking at. The Deputy Prime Minister will not provide us with this information.

The Government is looking at 24 different sectors, and I will list those sectors from this leaked document. The document is headed "Western Diversification Task Force Sector Teams".

Under high technology, the co-ordinator for which is an individual from Winnipeg, the sectors are: electronics, software, ocean industries, aerospace/defence, biotechnology, health care, advanced materials, and knowledge industries. Those are the sectors on the high technology side.

In manufacturing, the sectors that are being looked at are: wood products, petro-chemicals/plastics, food processing, which includes the sub-sectors of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, and other; and also chemical and chemical products/fertilizers.

Other sectors include transportation equipment, clothing, machinery/metal fabricating, which includes agriculture equipment, oil and gas equipment, resource and other; and furniture.

Under services, we have tourism, cultural industries, and consulting engineers.

Those are the 24 sectors that the various sector teams are looking at in terms of the western diversification initiative that this Government hopes to launch at some point.

I want to give the House some idea of how these studies are being conducted. I will use the electronics sector in my example, but the same holds true for all 24 sectors.

For the electronics sector, they have a person in the regional office who has responsibility for the sector. In other words, he is the leader in respect of that particular sector. For the electronics sector, it is the British Columbia office of DRIE, and the man in charge is a Mr. J. Wiebe. Below that person they have regional participants, and in the case of the electronics sector, they are Mr. Girard of Edmonton, Mr. Jeanneau of Saskatchewan, and Mr. C. Wiecek of Winnipeg.

In addition, there is an industry participant, who in this case is Mr. A. Letendre; and finally there are sector consultants. In this case, the consultant is Touche Ross, represented by two individuals, Mr. Bruce Stuart and Mr. N. Webster.

I have outlined the 24 sector groups being looked at under the western diversification initiative, and if any Hon. Member has any questions in respect of who else is involved, I would be pleased, on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, to provide the names.

I also have with me, Mr. Speaker, a copy of the questionnaire that is being used by the sector teams in carrying out their advance work for the western diversification initiative. The questionnaire is headed: "A Western Diversification Company Report". On here, of course, we have such things as the company name, the head office, and an index. The index includes such things as background information, market opportunities, technology opportunities, productivity opportunities, new products opportunities, capital investment and other responsibilities, sector issues and constraints.

It goes on for some 15 or 20 pages. It is a fairly elaborate questionnaire, aimed at gathering information on the 24 sectors that I listed, and constitutes the advance work for interviews with some 30 business people.