

Oral Questions

responsibility for co-ordination of efforts by her seat mate and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to ensure that these people are not evicted from their homes, that they will also have work which will last them the winter, and that they will get a fair share of that \$41 million?

Mrs. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Yes, Mr. Speaker, they will get their fair share, but I would like to call upon the hon. member for Yukon and ask for his assurance of co-operation in this matter as well.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT**INQUIRY WHETHER QUEBEC WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR DIRECT JOB CREATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Normand Lapointe (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In the June 28 budget, a fund of \$300 million was set aside for direct job creation. My question is this: will the Government of Canada be able to include Quebec municipalities in the program, since the federal government needs the Quebec government's consent to help the municipalities. Therefore, will the municipalities be able to apply for the Canada Community Development Program?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the government of the province of Quebec is preventing municipalities from receiving funds from the federal government for job creation. I am trying to get the Quebec government to change its position, but meanwhile, nothing can be done.

[English]

DIRECT JOB-CREATION PROGRAM—POSITION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, concerns the discriminatory direct job-creation program. I would like to point out that in this program about which we are asking questions, there is nothing for Ontario. Therefore, would the minister explain to the House why, in northern Ontario, no special funds were allocated, where there is currently the same percentage of unemployed in the native, disabled and youth groups, and plant and mine shutdowns, as in the chosen constituencies?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, once again a member of the Conservative opposition is showing that he does not want to become confused by the facts. The fact is that the province of Ontario, under the program announced yesterday, will be receiving over \$37 million, which is double its allocation of last year. When the hon. member says that the province of Ontario will be receiving nothing, he is obviously not considering the facts.

In addition, those constituencies in northern Ontario will also be included in the special allocation that we give to native groups and organizations to undertake a number of major housing and resource projects. Again, those funds are over and above the normal constituency allocation. But I would suggest, as I said in the House yesterday, that it would probably be much sounder and wiser for members of the opposition to wait until they have actually received letters from me detailing how much they will receive per constituency before they start speculating on the matter, a week in advance.

DESIGNATION OF COUNTIES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is also directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, deals with the announcement yesterday of the Canada Community Development Project funding which, in New Brunswick, only went to those constituencies which are held by Liberals. The fact is that the executive assistant to the minister said that the designated basis will be a 12 per cent surplus in manpower, and the minister himself has stated that this is the government's response to sensitivity and the plight of the unemployed in those regions. The minister will know that in New Brunswick, the counties of York, Sunbury and Queens, as well as Albert County, all have surpluses of manpower in excess of that of Madawaska and Victoria counties. Will the minister tell me and the people how he will demonstrate his sensitivity to the people in those counties who are so obviously the recipients of this blatant pork-barrelling policy which the government has now implemented?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, once again I think the hon. members of the opposition are beginning to count up the numbers before they are even informed as to how much will be given to their individual constituencies. Those constituencies mentioned by the hon. member will be receiving a substantial increase in their allocations. What we are trying to do through the development stream of that program is to take a four-year average of labour surplus rates, which denotes those areas which have had chronic, long-term unemployment, and apply the development concept so that they can break that cycle, for heaven's sake, and move into an area where they can begin to develop long-term, permanent employment. It in no way prevents, inhibits or changes the continuing allocation per riding which will go to every other constituency in the country, which has generally been increased by almost double what it was last year. In many cases it has gone up much further than that, based on the deterioration of the unemployment rate. But we are using the measurement of a labour surplus rate—

An hon. Member: You are using a pork-barrel rate.

Mr. Axworthy:—which was properly registered in employment centres over a four-year average in order to make that determination. I would only say to members of the opposition