

86 per cent. With that kind of an approval rating, I can understand why the Member is so frustrated at what is happening.

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FAMILY VIOLENCE

OPERATING EXPENSES OF NEW SHELTERS FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare or his representative. We certainly welcome the Minister's \$40 million initiative to fight family violence, including \$22 million for new spaces for short-term emergency housing for abused women and children.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Collins: There already are a number of agencies across the country providing crisis housing, many of which are having difficulty meeting their ongoing operating expenditures.

What provisions have been made under this new program to ensure adequate operating moneys for these new shelter spaces, and if these funds would be dependent upon provincial cost sharing, what assurances does the Minister have that the provinces will pay their fair share to ensure the success of the program?

[Translation]

Mrs. Monique Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad the Hon. Member for Capilano mentioned the announcement made yesterday by the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

It's good news for all Canadians. The federal Government has decided to take the lead on this issue, and the Hon. Member's question was about how the costs will be shared. As far as construction of new shelter spaces is concerned, the federal Government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will be able to pay the full cost.

Maintenance costs, however, come under the Canada Assistance Plan, and the federal Government will pay its share, which is 50 per cent of the cost.

Oral Questions

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SOVIET AND CANADIAN MEMBERS OF THE POLAR BRIDGE EXPEDITION

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the Members' attention the presence in the gallery of the nine Soviet and four Canadian members of the Polar Bridge Expedition who completed their 90-day trek from the shores of the Soviet Arctic to Ellesmere Island National Park in Canada on June 1 via the North Pole.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FAMILY VIOLENCE

SECOND-STAGE HOUSING FOR BATTERED WOMEN

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday we heard that the Government will not provide the money for second-stage housing for battered women and their children.

The Minister responsible for the status of women admitted yesterday that some women must escape to short-term shelters again and again after being forced to return to an abusive home by the lack of any alternatives. How can the Prime Minister justify this lack of funding for a long-term alternative to a life of pain, humiliation and fear, especially when his Government has cut 25,000 social housing units this year?

[Translation]

Mrs. Monique B. Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, today the Hon. Member opposite is criticizing the quite considerable efforts made by this Government. If the previous Government had done the same, Mr. Speaker, we would not have the situation we have now. At the present time, we have 1,100 units in Canada to alleviate this problem. Yesterday, the Government announced it was adding 500 new housing units to the existing "bank" and that the new units would be financed with funds currently available to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, so that construction can proceed as soon as possible.

Mrs. Pépin: Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to point out that although these new units are very welcome, this is short-term housing. The problem is with second stage housing, and there are only 12 units per province.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ABUSIVE LIVING PARTNER TO LEAVE CONJUGAL HOME

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): My supplementary is this: I wonder why the Government doesn't introduce a policy that would oblige husbands or spouses who abuse their wives to seek shelter outside the couple's home and undergo compulsory