

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, a recent study shows that almost two thirds of Canadians would start their own businesses if it were possible.

The biggest impediment to becoming self-employed in Canada today is lack of available funds from lending institutions. Additional studies predict that the job opportunities of the future are more likely to be with small companies rather than with megaprojects or the multinationals.

When is the government going to address the problem of lack of working capital for new and small business men and women so that small business entrepreneurs can help in a meaningful way to make taxpayers out of Canada's 1.5 million unemployed?

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GALA FOR CHILD POVERTY

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, today's child is tomorrow's hope. We all have a special responsibility to children to ensure that their lives are as full of health, security and opportunity as possible.

As chair of the subcommittee on poverty, I would like to commend the Fund for a New Generation, a group of young leaders from Ottawa's public, private and university sectors who have organized the Gala for Child Poverty to be held on February 27, 1993. You, Mr. Speaker, are honorary co-chair of this event which hopes to raise over \$10,000 for programs designed to help disadvantaged children.

The communal meal and early education programs to be assisted can help children to obtain not only good nutrition habits but also can address the social and sensory deprivation frequently experienced by poor children.

If parents are involved and contribute, it helps to achieve the dignity and sense of control important to well-being. Helping children means a better future for us all.

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GALA FOR CHILD POVERTY

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, on November 24, 1989 this House unanimously passed a resolution expressing concern for more than one million

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Canadian children living in poverty and setting the goal of eliminating child poverty by the year 2000.

How well are we doing here in our nation's capital? Little has changed. In Ottawa-Carleton alone, the Ottawa Food Bank reported that of the 29,000 people it assists each month close to half are children. Shepherds of Good Hope saw on average over 1,000 children a month, an average of 60 per day. Research from the Community Foundation of Ottawa-Carleton shows us that at least 19,000 children are living in poverty in Ottawa-Carleton.

The Fund for a New Generation is a group of young leaders from the public, private and university sectors determined to bring hope to Ottawa's poor children. On Saturday, February 27 it is holding the Gala for Child Poverty to raise money at the World Exchange Plaza for the Ottawa-Carleton child poverty fund. The goal this year is \$10,000 for breakfast for children, the Collective Kitchens Program and the Headstart Nurseries Program, all designed to assist disadvantaged children.

I commend these young people for their initiative and hope that it serves as an example of what we can do together to improve our children's future.

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EDUCATION

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, Canada needs voluntary national standardized testing in education.

A recent Angus Reid poll found that less than 20 per cent of Canadians believe Canada's education system is doing a good job. The same poll revealed that 76 per cent of Canadians would support standardized testing in our education system.

Canada spends one of the world's highest proportions of GDP on education. The Economic Council of Canada ranked us 11th out of 18 countries in education. In another study, Canada placed third for percentage of GNP spend on education.

However, our students came in only ninth in math and science testing. These results give Canadians reason to worry about the effectiveness of our education system. Standardized testing has been proposed by provincial education ministers but not all of the provinces will carry out the tests.