

attention a suggestion and an idea that I thought was worth while sharing with my colleagues in the House of Commons and, as well, with Canadians across this land.

St. Andrew's church in Ottawa is just two blocks from Parliament Hill. It has initiated a family nutrition program. A group of five to seven persons meets once a month with a facilitator to learn ways of purchasing and preparing food in order to maximize the family's nutrition based on current income. I will be speaking a little down the road about the current family income.

This program is a most creative method of diminishing the effect of child poverty and to reduce present requirements on the food bank system. Participants in this program will share their newly-learned skills with families and friends. The effect will be multiplied. As this program develops, several groups will be formed to receive this training. The total effect of this program will be dramatically increased over time.

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This program was developed out of a local community partnership, the Ottawa Emergency Food and Clothing Centre which proposed the idea adopted by St. Andrew's church and the Ottawa Centretown Community Health Centre which provides staff time to train participants.

In my view, the family nutrition program is an effective community response to a fast-growing problem in communities across Canada. It is proceeding with no cost to the federal budget at all. If programs such as these were to be adopted by the Department of National Health and Welfare, or were to be initiated and operated by that department, it would cost a lot of money. If the department would endorse such an initiative and promote it as an effective program to be operated by community agencies across Canada, it is probable that many groups would soon operate similar programs at minimal cost to the Government of Canada.

This is one program that was initiated by a non-governmental, non-profit organization in my riding. I am very proud of their initiative and what they have been doing over the years for my community and for the population at large.

Government Orders

This came about the same time that the Ottawa-Carleton Food Coalition project issued its annual report dated January 1992, entitled *The Hunger Crisis in Ottawa—Carleton*. Being the nation's capital, probably in the minds of many people outside of this region hunger would not be a problem here, or they might think that we are shielded, for whatever reason.

This is only to indicate some of the findings of this report. It was clearly stated, contrary to the belief of many people that those who go to the food banks might be working or might have some income, that in excess of 75 per cent of the people going to food banks in our region are in fact receiving social assistance in one way or another. Of the balance, 10 per cent are receiving some disability pension and 5 per cent are on unemployment. There is a very small percentage of people who are working who use the food bank. That percentage in our region is only 5 per cent. Five per cent of the people who are using food banks are full-time workers.

Even if we are to work in isolation at the food banks and we are to look at the income of a single parent family with two children and compare their income to the poverty line, we see the monthly income for a single parent with two children amounts to approximately \$1,213, while the poverty line at the federal level is \$1,952. Even though we have one of the most progressive social programs in North America, families who receive that assistance are not making any bread at the end of the month and have to rely on food banks in order to support themselves.

We have a national problem that needs national attention. The government has been reshaping and working on various ideas that deal with educating the work force and creating employment. It is timely for the government to put its brakes on when it comes to the transfer payment measures it is in the process of taking with Bill C-32 which will cap transfer payments to provinces such as Ontario where this year alone the impact would be in excess of \$900 million.

The vast majority of people who are on social welfare are between the ages of 14 and 49. Over 52 per cent of people receiving social assistance programs are between the ages of 30 and 39. There is a crisis of national proportions which requires national attention.