

In truth, they are two sides of the same coin. Fiscal deficits and debt problems must be addressed if we are to provide for the long-term stability of our respective economies. But any advances on the economic side will be in vain, if we do not simultaneously address the human deficit. In short, social and economic development must go hand-in-hand. Addressing either in isolation is doomed to failure.

In Canada, last week, we began to confront the problem of our fiscal deficit through the introduction of tough targets in our new budget. At the same time, we have begun a fundamental and far-reaching restructuring of our social programs, to ensure that they better meet the needs of Canadians. The point, in other words, is not simply how much money we spend on our programs, but how that money is spent. As the United Nations Development Programme's 1994 *Human Development Report* states: "It is not the level of income alone that matters — it is also the use that is made of this income."

Addressing the Human Deficit: Some Possible Solutions

I would like to focus, for a few minutes, on how Canada is trying to tackle its own human deficit. At the heart of our efforts to meet human needs within the new economy is a belief in the fundamental dignity of work. Thus, the reform of our social programs has one paramount objective: to get people back into the labour market. Five key themes emerge:

Moving from Income Support Alone to Active Employment Measures

While we must continue to provide a level of income support for the unemployed, increasingly we need to move our programs away from simple income support to active measures that get people back to work.

In some cases, this means removing obstacles. For example, the provision of affordable childcare, so single parents — mainly women — may take up a job outside the home. In other cases, it is the provision of a bridge, such as a working income supplement, to get people back into the labour force. In other instances, young people in our Youth Service Corps are working on projects to better the environment, teach literacy and contribute to their community in a multitude of ways.

The Role of Civil Society in Solving the Human Deficit

As technology displaces vast numbers of workers in the government, service and manufacturing sectors, the question we repeatedly face is: Where are the new jobs?

One possible answer lies in civil society, or what might be