

to help and to be a partner through our Summer Canada grant program.

I am reminded today as well of the Mississauga Canadian-Italian Association. A year ago I met with people from that association. At that time it was a social group. People had dances and enjoyed themselves together as a community, but they wanted to go beyond that. They were worried about the way some people were having difficulty integrating into Mississauga. They were worried about drugs. They were worried about family services and about filling in official government forms. They set up a referral service. Today that referral service is launched, thanks to a grant from the federal Government. It is another partnership. It is an extended hand between the community and the federal Government. Today it is a service that is widely applauded. The mayor, the provincial MPP, other volunteers, representatives from the Italian services across Toronto have all said that the Mississauga Canadian-Italian Association has indeed done a good job. I am proud to have been there helping out as a partner on behalf of the federal Government.

I believe that in housing and in multiculturalism we have two outstanding examples of how the federal Government works hand in hand with volunteer activities to build new institutions, to create new aspects to our social safety net across Canada. But there is a third area, and that is where we join the private sector, the volunteer sector, to be a partner in jobs and community development. Every Member in this House knows about the Summer Canada program and the Canada Works program. Personally I prefer to see those job-creation projects go to the private voluntary sector. It is a constant temptation in my city to extend the moneys to the City of Mississauga and to the region of Peel. I try to avoid that temptation because I do not like just to pass tax dollars from one level of government to another. Frankly, I find that the City of Mississauga has great ideas. If I do not give them a grant through our system, they will find the money in another way. Volunteer groups do not have that kind of flexibility. They do not have that kind of partnership.

● (1520)

Let me point out some of the people who worked with us last summer to create jobs for students. Listen to this list. Listen to the broad representation across Mississauga. Here is an honour roll of voluntarism in my city: Theatre Malton, Malton Social Planning Centre, the Volunteer Centre of Peel, the ACFO-Nottawasaga Branch, the Midwich Co-op Housing Project, the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and the Credit Valley Treatment Centre. Those are all volunteer groups in my city. All of them offer opportunities to help my city grow and become stronger.

In their Summer Canada projects, they left permanent benefits for our community. They provided our students with useful jobs and training and left us with projects that are responsible. We are now able to measure the benefits because they are accountable groups which are ready to stand up and tell us what they did with great pride. I see us working through

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volunteer groups to create short-term jobs. I like that process. It is a very valuable way to operate. We need more of this activity, not less.

In conclusion, I want to say that I salute the people from Erindale College, the Mississauga Board of Trade and the Mississauga News. Today they are preparing the Citizen of the Year Dinner. This is held annually to salute one person who has done a really outstanding job. They are currently going through the community picking the nominees. In the next days they will boil down the long list into a short list and pick a winner. They do not really pick one winner. In this process, all of Mississauga is a winner. We are picking someone who represents the kind of community spirit that is typical of my city. When that community spirit raises its head, I am proud that the federal Government has been there to help them out in a few small ways.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I may have missed the first few moments of the Hon. Member's speech. I wonder whether he dealt with the issue of the give and take tax proposal. If the Hon. Member did not deal with it, he has missed the essence of a large part of the concern in the voluntary community.

I have noted in the House over a considerable period of time that he has voted for budgets which provide the \$100 standard deduction without making charitable donations, and that has been one of the causes why the voluntary sector has fallen behind in a financial sense. Has he had a change of heart and can he assure the House that he is now in favour of the give and take tax proposal and the fact that people must donate to charities before getting tax credits for having done so?

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. I have to confess that I did not go right to the motion. The Hon. Member has pinned me down. He has found my true strategy. I did not go directly to the motion because I found the motion wrong. I found it too negative. The motion attempts to say that the federal Government does not do anything for the charitable or voluntary sector.

Far be it for the Hon. Member to introduce politics into the House of Commons, but I believe the motion may have had some political overtones. I think his speech may have had some political overtones. It is necessary to balance out that sort of negative motion with a reference to a few positive matters. There has been positive action in housing with 100,000 units across Canada in the social housing program, most of them through a partnership with the voluntary sector. That is not something we should condemn. It is something we should applaud. If we go to examples of other programs, we find the Government hand in hand with the private sector constantly. If the Hon. Member has a particular tax measure that he wants to promote, that is fine, but he should not condemn all Government activity through this motion just because he is trying to promote one particular tax deduction.

Mr. Nickerson: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Mississauga North describes himself as a sparkplug. On reflection, I do see certain resemblances. Both of them have occasional