

were literally thousands of people on unemployment insurance and welfare.

In my own constituency of Algoma during the last four or five years we have experienced something like 400 to 500 people employed in programs of Canada Works and the Local Initiatives Program. I am concerned that similar large numbers will be seeking employment this coming winter with the slowdown in the economy in the United States and resulting lay-offs in the forest products industry and veneer mills, sawmills, and even in some of the steel mills where there are lay-offs or threats of lay-offs, as well as the general unemployment we experience through seasonal factors with low construction activity during winter months in areas like the north shore of Lake Huron, Manitoulin Island, the north of the Sault area and so on.

I am pleased the minister responded positively indicating there would be an announcement of a program. Since then a program was announced, but that was all—just the announcement of a new program called the Canada Community Development program. I am pleased the minister is reinstating the program. However, I think it is important to know exactly when that program and details will be announced, along with the criteria and the types of projects that will be funded. We should know when the application forms will be available and when the projects will get under way.

I think it is very undesirable to start these projects in November and December often in communities which are building facilities, and I felt the Canada Works program up until last year had solved most of these problems. In fact they were dealing with applications in the spring months, having them adjudicated or reviewed by departmental officials and ministerial advisory boards during the month of July, with the projects getting under way on the first of September, right after Labour Day, when we usually see unemployment starting to cut in seasonally. As a result, projects which were of a construction nature were able to be started, putting footings in and frames up, before the arrival of winter weather, and often completed before the winter months.

It is terribly important that the department move ahead with this on a rapid basis, allowing communities and non-profit organizational groups to know what are the criteria, when the applications and forms will be available, in order to see these projects under way in the early fall months rather than November and December when seasonal difficulties, with the cold and the weather, are already upon us. Certainly in my own constituency there has been a tremendous number of worth-while projects, including community wharves and marinas that have been constructed in places like Gore Bay, Little Current, Blind River, Thessalon and Bruce Mines.

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There are a number of communities waiting to complete or go on with projects of this nature. Other communities have built firehalls and medical centres. Perhaps one of the most important and most critical such projects is native housing. We have been waiting now for several months for the Minister of

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Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) to announce the new native housing programs which are grossly underfunded with something like a capital allowance of \$12,000 per unit. That is completely unsatisfactory.

If we could have a clear outline of how this Canada Community Development Program will work from the parliamentary secretary, it would let these community groups get on with the planning and allow this program to move forward. Really, it is getting very late for projects to be approved, adjudicated, and funded for the early fall months.

Mr. Robert Daudlin (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am sincerely happy that the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) chose to be here this evening to bring up his question, unlike other members who were supposed to be here and for whom answers were prepared but who do not seem to be present.

In any event, with respect to the interesting question raised by the hon. member for Algoma, the minister announced in the House on June 2, 1980, that direct job-creation programs will indeed be reinstated, particularly for high unemployment areas. In addition, the minister announced other initiatives which will create job and training opportunities for over 81,000 Canadians. This includes those Canadians who will be employed under the Employment Tax Credit program, which is presently under consideration in the other place.

The intent to respond to the unemployment situation, as outlined in the throne speech, has been acted upon quickly. The announcement of June 2 has introduced a series of measures, totalling \$137 million for this fiscal year, to respond to the critical and immediate employment problems faced by Canadians.

More than \$100 million will be used this winter and next year for Canada Community Development Projects across the country, with particular emphasis on areas of high unemployment. Local organizations will be eligible to sponsor projects that are supportive of established priorities, such as fisheries enhancement, energy conservation and tourism development. There will be a basic allocation to each federal constituency for this program, as well as an additional allocation based on the labour surplus rate in the constituency.

I wish to assure the members of this House that the Canada Community Development Projects will be available in all provinces and territories. They will not be restricted to particular regions. Program information and application forms will be made available to the public on July 28, 1980. The application deadline will be September 29, 1980, and projects may start after November 15, 1980, but no later than February 2, 1981.

The Canada Community Development Projects Program is expected to result in about 15,500 jobs for an estimated 19,400 participants. In addition to the Canada Community Development Projects, other new programs include the Canada Community Services Projects, which will provide voluntary organizations with funding scaled over a two-year period to meet pressing social needs. There is also the New Technology Employment program which will stimulate the development