

*Supply*

Another woman, Michelle Salardeau-Ramsay, deputy chief commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, in talking about Ottawa's decision not to provide retroactive pay equity to its lowest paid public servants, said:

It is the most deceptive and cruel thing coming from government that we have seen in a long time. It is a tremendous blow to the hopes of low income people.

Quoting from the same article, I want to remind my colleagues and fellow Canadians that "when governments tighten their belts it is the poorest and most vulnerable members of society who feel the pinch".

Finally another quote from the same article:

The war on the deficit has become the cover for rolling back many of the advances women, children, racial minorities, the disabled, the poor and other targets of discrimination have made over the last 20 years and particularly since the passage of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982.

It is most unfortunate that this is happening. It is perhaps another way of trying to counteract the advances made by the charter. I believe that it in fact is exactly that.

I will go on to quote from another article an important commentary that reads as follows:

Equality and justice are falling out of fashion.

That is what that particular writer had to say. It goes on to say:

No society which has oppression functions well. Why would government choose a course which will see it having to put more and more money into violent means of control such as police and prisons instead of putting it toward addressing basic inherent injustices?

That is one of the view of the budget. I want to make sure I enter into the record this particular quotation because I think it is fundamental to Canadians and their sense of justice. It talks about equality and states:

Equality does not mean treating everybody equally. Equality means compensating for differences so that disadvantaged people can attain true equality. Equality for one means greater equality for all.

I could talk, and I suspect I should have about the child tax credit. People have seen it. It is something that is well packaged. It will not help those who are poorest. In fact it will not help those who are at the bottom of the socio-economic scale.

I could have talked about the cuts to social housing. This will not only be reduced substantially, but co-operative housing programs will be eliminated. I am alarmed as well that other Conservative governments such as the Filmon government in Winnipeg is cutting legal aid to those who need it most.

I have not even addressed issues such as—

[*Translation*]

—in the media today where we read headlines like "How to guarantee women's safety" and "Aboriginal women struggle to obtain concessions". Why should they have to struggle to obtain concessions?

I want to say a few words about education.

[*English*]

I know a poor single mom who is at home and wants to upgrade but would have to sell her home in order to do that. She has nowhere to go and she is in fact condemned to a life of poverty.

I know of another single mom working who has two children. The children became ill recently, one at a time. They did not organize it that way. She had a great deal of difficulty getting assistance so that she could go to work. There are very few programs to support her and many others like her.

Turning to child care payments, you and I know, Mr. Speaker, as do millions of other Canadians, that there is roughly \$1 billion estimated owed to parents, most of whom are women. Are courts sensitive to mothers when they have to go and attempt to get what is fair, what is just, what they want for their children? No, not too often; in fact not often enough. We know as well that payments are low and payments are not always paid on time. Not only is the mother sacrificed, but the children are being sacrificed.

I could have addressed the whole question of pensions for women. We all know that it is totally inadequate.

I am coming to the end of my remarks. I have two more points to make with respect to rampant violence and abuse that I will make very quickly. I could have talked about sexual, physical and emotional abuse. There are few supports.