

Private Members' Business

itself has recognized that is an initiative it wants to pursue.

In the area of health, we have a very active co-operative health centres in Prince Albert which was one of the first. I might acknowledge my wife is on the board. There has been a recent study released, after the Saskatchewan government sat on for about seven years, that said that the cost of maintaining the health of the residents of a region could be reduced by as much as 25 to 30 per cent if the co-operative health model were adopted in other communities. We have also seen people struggling hard to provide day care for their children, even though it is often financially difficult and there has not been much support. People have used the co-operative vehicle as a way to mobilize their resources to provide that very valuable service.

As well, in northern Canada there are Arctic co-operatives. When we actually went through our list in my own constituency I was somewhat surprised to learn that there are 25 fishermen's co-operatives, a legacy of the organizational efforts of people in the 1950s. There are also consumer co-operatives. There is a very active co-operative movement right through northern Canada.

I would like to also recognize the community development movement in this country, through places like Memorial University, the Council on Rural Development, a Topshee Conference which I had the opportunity to attend at St. Francis Xavier University earlier this year which gathers together people in the maritimes interested in community development. There is a group with the "Garfieldesque" name of ARG, the agricultural and rural restructuring group which recently had a conference in Saskatoon which I attended. Academics, community activists, and the president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture were there. There is a real coming together in this country of community development thinking, especially as it applies to the rural area which I am very happy to see, and I think it would behave all members to support.

I would also recognize some of the very positive initiatives that all members can support in the Indian community through the organization of economic development corporations. One which was recognized at that conference and in fact received the award as the fastest growing small business in Saskatchewan last year is an

organization called Kitsaki Development Corporation, the development arm of the La Ronge Indian Band. This organization had sales last year of over \$10 million, and is a very credible actor in the economy of northern Saskatchewan. They are owners of a hotel, they have a joint venture with Trimac in the trucking business, northern resource trucking. They are very carefully picking their spots, their strategic investments, and are doing an excellent job. The most recent product that they have just brought to market in a very exemplary way is the use of wild rice and pasta. I am informed that it is difficult even to get it in Prince Albert because the American market is gobbling it up faster than they can produce it. So in the interests of making the government look good on free trade, here is an opportunity to support a way to do that.

In closing, I would like to say that the motion I am proposing here I would like hon. members, especially members of the government, to look closely at. This is not a partisan motion. It is not calling on the government to spend money. It is not even calling on the government to make steps one, two, and three. I have ideas of my own about that and other members do. I am trying to communicate through this motion and the reason I am asking members to support it, is that we need an awareness of the problem, but also of the solution. It is not a big government solution. It is a community solution. I would ask that government members and all members pay attention to it and support this resolution.

In closing, I would like to read the motion I am asking members to accept:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of encouraging and building community-based investment and job initiatives through community and worker co-operatives, community development corporations, regional councils, small businesses and farms and municipal governments.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address this motion which recommends that the government encourage community-based investment and employment through local co-operation among governments, small business, and employee groups. This is the kind of approach which many communities urgently need. Let me add, this is precisely the approach the government has taken and will continue to take in the future.