

the unemployment rate today would not be 10.3 per cent. It would be 10.6 per cent.

I want to ask the minister whether he agrees with the words of Doug Peters, the chief economist of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, who said today: "It is time to review the mess we are in and the policies that got us here". When will this government recognize that Canadians are hurting out there in Main Street, Canada, and change the policies that created the mess we are now in?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): The best thing that we can do, without yelling and shouting and ranting and raving like the hon. member will do from time to time, is to assure that the economy is on a sound footing. That is the most important thing.

Yesterday, we saw interest rates drop to an 18 year low. We also saw mortgage rates drop yesterday to a level that we have not seen in 23 years.

The situation is that the inflationary pressures are coming down, and that is a very positive sign. Housing starts in October are up over 200,000 annualized. There are some good signals there. The best thing that we can do for the people of Canada is to ensure a strong economy, a good strong recovery, to get people back to meaningful work. That is what we are trying to do.

By the way, Mr. Peters has his opinion. The Liberals like to quote Mr. Peters from time to time. I met with him in Montreal a couple of weeks ago and listened to him as well. But other economists have other opinions. As a matter of fact, in the pre-budget consultations the majority of the people are saying we are on the right track, stick to it, because they can see light at the end of the tunnel.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St.—Barbe—Baie Verte): Madam Speaker, last month, 13,000 jobs were lost in Quebec, and 92 per cent of those jobs were filled by women. When will the minister table specific programs to help these women get back to work and take their rightful place in our society?

[*English*]

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): I thank the hon. member. This government has been working very diligently to help especially

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that group with the Canadian Labour Force Development Strategy. Under that strategy we have allocated \$3.1 billion this year and \$3.4 billion next year for training and adjustment programs for Canadian workers and more than \$6 billion in two years time. That is working.

As a matter of fact I was in Montreal last night, and I had an individual come up and he said he took that training course and he now has a good full-time job in Montreal. He thanked the government for providing that training program. Those are the results that are happening. The hon. member pooh-poohs that but I am going to tell him something: Those who are taking the training and finding jobs thank the government for it, and the hon. member should as well.

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PROJECT HAVEN

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

The time frame for Project Haven is nearly at an end. Workers with abused women across Canada are still wondering just where the money went. Will the minister tell us how much of Project Haven's dollars have already been spent, and will she also tell us how many transition house units have been built with this money?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Madam Speaker, yes indeed I would be pleased to respond to my hon. colleague.

As I understand it, and this program does come under CMHC, basically the full allocation under the old Project Haven has been used up or has been committed and 499 new units have been established for women and their children under that project.

As the member knows, there is now a new project which commences this year and which will be focusing specifically on second stage housing, although there will be some components still related to emergency housing as well.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, we are happy for the 499 individuals who will be helped. We hope that the government will see its way clear to see the million or more women who are still in great difficulty.