

ment of a program for integrated water resource management, and the implementation of specific post-secondary educational and training programs in water science.

As a first step in facilitating these objectives, my colleagues and I call upon this government to establish regional water science research facilities in critical watersheds throughout Canada. Such facilities could be administered jointly by the ministries of the Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, Health and Welfare, and Agriculture through a newly established department of water science. This department would in turn be mandated to work co-operatively with the appropriate provincial and regional authorities to establish needs and priorities as determined by the nature of the watershed.

As has been recommended by the National Science Council, each facility should be attached to at least one university or other post-secondary institution and should include at least five scientists. Each facility would be responsible for conducting ongoing research in all aspects of water use, including the collection of pertinent hydrologic data of the water supply area. Each research facility could work with the provincial and regional facilities to ensure that the efforts are incorporated into regional water management plans.

As well the new department of water science, in liaison with the National Research Council and provincial post-secondary institutes, could develop educational and training programs in water science research. Such programs would help resolve the critical lack of training facilities and provide academic centres for post-graduate research programs in conjunction with the research facility.

Finally, I would suggest that as a provincially designated environmentally sensitive area, which is already experiencing serious water shortage conflicts, the Okanagan and Shuswap watersheds could provide an ideal location for a pilot project of this sort. The construction of a prototype water science research facility would address the serious water resource problems in this region and would help develop the framework for the implementation of a national program of water resource management.

Private Members' Business

In concluding, I ask that this government support this motion today and, by so doing, begin to tackle the serious water resource problems that continue to confront this nation.

[Translation]

Mrs. Monique B. Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, water resource management has been the subject of thorough consultation in this country. The Commission of Inquiry on Federal Water Policy, established in January 1984, stated in its final report, published in 1985, that water management problems were no longer local problems of water supply and water pollution; they had taken on regional and even global proportions.

Subsequently, an interdepartmental task force was set up to consider the commission of inquiry's recommendations and draft a general framework for the federal water policy.

In November 1987, the government announced its federal water policy, whose main objective is to encourage fair and realistic use of fresh water in Canada, so as to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations.

The policy is intended to achieve an integrated approach to water resource planning and favours the kind of water use that will help to maintain the many relationships established within our ecosystem. To manage Canada's water resources, the government has set itself two main goals: Preserve and improve water quality and encourage realistic and effective water management and consumption. The policy outlines 25 specific issues and five basic courses of action: pricing of water services; leadership role in water science; integrated planning; legislation; and public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, with these strategies the government not only intends to obtain the co-operation of the provinces and territories as well as multilateral organizations in other countries, it also wants to support various federal agencies, municipalities, industry, universities and environmental organizations so that they will be able to take the necessary action to deal with specific issues that concern them and can meet future challenges in water resource management.

This policy is now being discussed at the interdepartmental level, with discussions to be followed by a report to the Minister of the Environment on the various activities of the departments involved in its implementation. The problems with which Canada must deal in this