

had a number of problems with that strategy. I want to draw to the attention of the House and the Cabinet in a very serious way, as well as to any officials who may be watching, a very important discussion paper prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Skills Development a short time ago. This paper was prepared on behalf of all provincial Governments for a meeting in Ottawa on January 29 and January 30, 1987. The paper analyses in detail the Canadian Jobs Strategy and makes a number of important points concerning women and the program. The paper was undertaken by the Ontario Government but at the request of the other provinces. It was endorsed by those provinces at the meeting in January.

The observations in this paper are relevant to the motion before us today. I hope members of all three Parties will take these observations to heart and seriously consider them.

● (1510)

One of the most serious comments made in here is with regard to the criteria for eligibility to the Canadian Jobs Strategy. They say that the eligibility criteria to the programs remain too restrictive in many ways. The Ontario Ministry of Skills Development study says:

Key target groups—for instance the severely employment disadvantaged, women, and individuals in threatened communities—face barriers due to gaps in the design of the CJS.

They go into detail about the job development budget and program and entry and re-entry components of the women's program within the CJS.

In speaking of women specifically the report says:

The Canadian Jobs Strategy identifies women as a special client group to receive a greater share of training and employment opportunities.

They identify women for this, but the study goes on to say:

However, the CJS is criticized by women's groups across Canada for its failure to benefit women, and immigrant women in particular.

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey reveals that women make up 43 per cent of the labour force in Canada.

Yet, despite the fact that women are a target group under the CJS, federal statistics show that the participation rate of women in the CJS, excluding the Challenge 85 program which provided summer employment for secondary and post-secondary students, was only 34 per cent in 1985-86.

That is very serious, Mr. Speaker. Women make up 43 per cent of the labour force yet only 34 per cent of the people participating in the Canadian Jobs Strategy are women. That is a gap of 9 per cent.

[Translation]

This is something that is so important that 43 per cent of the Canadian labour force were women. But women participation in the *Canadian Job's strategy of women* program is only 34 per cent.

[English]

That is not good enough. The Minister should take note of that and try to do something about it. The study continues:

Furthermore, the number of women being served by EIC since the introduction of the Canadian Jobs Strategy is declining.

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In addition, the preponderance of projects funded under the CJS have offered women training in traditional, low-paying occupations.

That is a very important point of which we must all take note. So many of the women in the Canadian Jobs Strategy are being trained in traditional low-paying occupations. Of the 767 female participants who received occupational training, fully two-thirds, 512, received training in such traditional areas as clerical, sales and service occupations. That is not good enough, Mr. Speaker. All Parties should insist that that be changed.

Even more telling is that no training was provided for women in such non-traditional occupations for women as construction, mining, machining, and forestry and transport equipment operating. The table contained in this study of the Ministry of Skills Development shows that in such occupations as mining, oil and gas there is not a single woman of the 3,250 involved being trained in those areas. The same applies to forestry and logging occupations, machining and related occupations, construction trades occupations, transport equipment operating occupations, and material handling and related occupations. Very few women are being trained in other occupations which are non-traditional for women in this country.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is very proud to say that he has six women in his Cabinet. I congratulate him for that. That is pretty good compared to previous Prime Ministers. However, anything is pretty good when it is compared with something which is really bad.

Mr. Fennell: What about your Cabinet?

Mr. Nystrom: The Conservative Member across the way talks about our Cabinet. I have seen NDP Cabinets in western provinces which have very few or no women. I am not proud of that. I am happy that in the last provincial election in Saskatchewan, after not having female New Democratic MLAs for a long time, three were elected. That is good, not only for the NDP and not only for Saskatchewan, but for all women in this country.

All Parties should do whatever they can to ensure that there are more women in politics so that when there is another important Conference of First Ministers there will be some women sitting around the table rather than only 11 middle-aged or older men making important decisions about the future of Canada for all Canadians. That is very important.

This study points out the discrimination in the Canadian Jobs Strategy. There are 311 women being trained in clerical and related occupations, 131 being trained in sales occupations, and 69 being trained in service occupations. However, there are very few women being trained in occupations which are important in terms of making money and decisions. I will give you three examples.

In the managerial, administrative and related occupations class there are only 42 women being trained in all of Canada, while for low-paying clerical jobs they are training 311 women