

*Adjournment Debate*

• (1810)

A great many of them need sewers and running water, but all of them need housing and repairs for existing housing. That is because there is a problem with overcrowding. There is a problem with a great backlog on the waiting list. There is a problem with damages caused by condensation as a result of the heating of these houses, cooking and indoor washing and drying of clothing because of the extreme temperatures in much of our country.

All of this housing has been built under programs either initiated by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This year or next CMHC apparently will have a total of some \$41 million for new housing for non-natives and for natives off reserve. That is for 1993. In 1994 there are not going to be any new funds available for off reserve housing through CMHC unless it can generate some savings through efficiencies or through new financing arrangements. That is a real question mark.

As far as the department of Indian affairs is concerned its funding is going to be frozen as of the last budget at this year's level, in spite of the fact according to DIAND it is estimated in 1990 that there was a backlog of some 11,710 housing units.

The government has promised that we are going to have a new housing policy and presumably some new money for natives both on and off reserve and for the Inuit in the Northwest Territories. In answer to the question I asked on May 13, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said that the government was in the process of reviewing its policy which would be announced as soon as it was finalized.

By their own admissions various federal governments, not just the present one, have been reviewing this policy since 1975. In light of that is it any wonder that native Canadians across our country are truly worried about what is going to happen next year.

**Mr. Lee Richardson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the federal government recognizes that there is a critical need to resolve the housing problems in aboriginal communities and is committed to assisting First Nations in acquiring suitable, adequate and affordable housing.

Over the past four years the Government of Canada has supported discussions and consultations with First Nations to address the issue of inadequate housing. It is not just the government that is reviewing. This is in consultation with the natives of whom the hon. member speaks. It is in their interests and with them that these policies are being developed.

More than 250 meetings were held across the country enabling the government and aboriginal leaders to identify the issues and recommend options for change. At the conclusion of this joint process it was agreed that a fundamentally reformed housing policy was needed.

The Government of Canada is now considering a new policy framework that will be developed jointly with the Assembly of First Nations using the recommendations contained in the report on housing prepared by the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and the advice received directly from community leaders.

The immediate goal is to assist Indian communities in addressing the provision of adequate, suitable and affordable housing in a way that promotes Indian control and accountability in the management of activity, greater opportunities for home ownership, sound economic development and employment opportunities for First Nations and assures equity with other Canadians.

By working with First Nations the government has made significant progress in identifying the issues and options for change relating to on reserve housing. Access to affordable, quality housing for native people has been and will continue to be an integral part of the fulfilment of the native agenda.

• (1815)

## ENVIRONMENT

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, as you probably know, the world community has agreed that it is in the interests of the population in five continents for their well-being, for their food security and for long-term stability of their lands to ensure that there be no changes in climate. The present trend in climate change must be reversed. It is caused by a number of gases which are being produced as a result of our activities on this planet. They are usually referred to as greenhouse gases.