

Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025

Resuming the debate adjourned on October 29, 2025, on the motion for second reading of the following bill:

Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Pursuant to the order of the House dated November 6, 2025, I am now required to put the question.

Mr. Calandra has moved second reading of Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard a no.

All those in favour of the motion, please say “aye.”

All those opposed to the motion, please say “nay.”

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

A recorded vote being required, it will be deferred until the next instance of deferred votes.

Second reading vote deferred.

Autism treatment

Mr. John Jordan: The Ontario government is investing more than \$37 million over the next two years in 100 public and private autism service providers across the province to help more children and families access clinical services in the Ontario Autism Program.

I was very happy to see that this investment included funding for ConnectWell Community Health, serving families in my riding of Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston. ConnectWell Community Health received a two-year grant totalling \$400,000.

Leslie Greene, director of developmental services, said, “ConnectWell Community Health is thrilled to be a recipient of the workforce capacity fund for 2025-27. There is a significant need in our community for Ontario Autism Program core clinical services. These funds will assist families in navigating and accessing local services to support their child’s development.”

Funding for local service providers through the workforce capacity fund is part of the province’s total investment in the Ontario Autism Program. Since 2019, Ontario has more than doubled the program’s annual budget, bringing it to a total of \$779 million with the addition of a \$175-million investment through budget 2025. This new investment will continue to support enrolment of children and youth in core clinical services.

Investments in our riding and throughout Ontario will help autism service providers build and retain stable, skilled teams that will allow more families to access the services they need close to home.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Before we move on to introduction of visitors, I just want—I know we have a lot of people visiting us today. If your member is unable to introduce you, it’s

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(Bill 33, Autism Treatment, Youth Employment)

not their fault; it's my fault. I'm a stickler for time. But we all appreciate that you joined us here in the gallery.

Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025

Deferred vote on the motion for second reading of the following bill:

Bill 33, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to child, youth and family services, education, and colleges and universities

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Call in the members. This is a five-minute bell.

Interjection: Same vote.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Same vote? Same vote.

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. Trevor Day): The ayes are 70; the nays are 38.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I declare the motion carried.

Second reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Pursuant to the order of the House dated November 6, 2025, the bill is ordered for third reading.

Youth employment

Ms. Stephanie Bowman: I move that whereas in September of 2025, youth unemployment was at 17.8%, the highest in Canada, and approached levels as high as during the COVID-19 pandemic, previously not seen for 33 years; and

Whereas the average wait for a young person to find a job has grown to three and a half months, the highest in 29 years; and

Whereas Ontario businesses, particularly small businesses, are struggling with the impact of US tariffs, and need support to weather trade uncertainties; and

Whereas despite generationally low job opportunities, the Premier has recently made comments blaming over 220,000 young workers for not being able to find a job, telling them to look harder; and

Whereas wage subsidy programs like Canada Summer Jobs have resulted in hundreds of thousands of job opportunities, helping local businesses and opening careers to young Ontarians;

Therefore, in the opinion of the House, the government of Ontario should establish a youth wage subsidy program to create jobs in Ontario, helping young Ontarians start their career, create networks and develop lifelong skills while providing Ontario businesses with well-educated young workers.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): I recognize the member from Don Valley West.

Ms. Stephanie Bowman: It's a pleasure to rise today to speak to our Ontario Liberal motion because it comes at a time when the young generation coming into the workforce today is under

immense pressure. They're losing hope, Speaker, and they're finding no relief from this government.

I recently spoke with a young person in my riding of Don Valley West who is looking for work, preferably in their field. But at this point, they would take anything. They have been sending out résumés, showing up in person—in other words, looking very hard, but no job offers. This, sadly, is the norm for hundreds of thousands of young people in our province.

And make no mistake, this isn't just about US tariffs. Unemployment has been rising under this government for the past nine quarters, and unemployment for youth has almost doubled since this government took office. When they took office, it was 9.9%. It reached 18% before settling down a point or two recently.

This is really about the government's inability to create the right conditions to have a strong economy where people who need a job can get one and young people have a promising opportunity for their future—this from a government that in 2019 promised 300,000 manufacturing jobs. Speaker, sadly, the reality is that they've only created 26,000 since taking office in 2018. So they're 91% short of their goal, kind of like their plan to build houses.

But that's not the only broken promise, Speaker. It used to be that if you were a young person and you studied hard, you got a good education, you could expect to start your career here in Ontario. But that promise has been broken. Youth unemployment was 16.3% in October. Again, it did come down a little bit, but that was only because of part-time jobs. We'll get more data eventually, but it probably was the Blue Jays bounce. Most of those jobs were here in Ontario. They were in the retail and hospitality sectors.

Ontario used to be the economic engine of this country. We are still the worst of the largest provinces in Canada for youth unemployment. We are worse than Alberta. We are worse than BC. We are worse than Quebec.

So let's look at the government's response. The first government solution was plain nonsense, frankly, and was just wrong. The Premier called it the "look harder plan." During a recent speech to the Toronto Region Board of Trade, a visibly frustrated Premier claimed young people just had to look harder for that job. He claimed that the responsibility wasn't on him, that it was on the young people; they weren't doing enough.

But let's look at the numbers, Speaker. Ontario has the lowest youth employment rate in the country and the lowest rate our province has had in 50 years—50 years, Speaker.

A group of students from Beaches—East York—Jane is here today, which is great; thank you to my colleague Mary-Margaret McMahon from Beaches—East York for inviting her—created a survey and talked to some of their fellow students and classmates to understand what was going on for young people.

Here is one statement from the report. When the person was asked, "Do you want a job?" "Yes, I want one. I've applied to 100-plus positions on Indeed as well as walked into places with résumés and references and asked for applications or to speak about employment opportunities. It's always either a no—or no answer at all. I never get callbacks. Even people my parents know who are hiring don't want to hire teens."

So the government can claim all they want, Speaker, that the problem lies with young people having no initiative, but that's just not the truth. The government is failing to create the job opportunities and the conditions for that that young people need to start their careers.

Let's look at another one of this government's solutions: Get some training; get some skills development. Well, I agree in principle, Speaker, but their implementation of this plan has been an abject failure. We have a highly trained workforce. The idea goes that we'll attract better and higher-paying jobs from specialized industries. Obviously, you would do this by augmenting the existing post-secondary education sector, right? But not if you're from this PC government. Instead of investing in Ontario's post-secondary sector, which will be receiving less support year over year through 2027-28, according to this year's budget, they're going with something that's called the Skills Development Fund, or the special donors' fund, or the slush fund—a few different names floating around.

In theory, here's what the fund was supposed to do: It was supposed to train workers to be able to upskill and earn bigger paycheques. But in reality, here's what happened with just the training stream, the \$1.3-billion training stream of the SDF: 54% of the applications, 549 selected by the minister's office and approved for funding, were ranked as poor, low or medium—basically F grades, D grades, maybe a C. These applications received about \$742 million, or 56% of the funding. That's a failing grade if I ever heard one, Speaker.

There were 670 applicants that ranked high that were passed over by the minister for funding. The whole process, we know, of course, the Auditor General found to be not fair, not transparent, not accountable, and there was little rationale to explain why those high-ranked applicants were not chosen.

Speaker, putting money into the SDF doesn't appear to be making a dent in the nearly one in six youth in Ontario who can't find a job, but we don't know because the government isn't even tracking the results of their SDF. So where will help come from?

After all, we have to remember, we went to an early, unnecessary election because the government said they needed a mandate to spend billions of dollars to protect us from tariffs. Let's look at that plan: \$9 billion in liquidity relief through tax deferrals, but people had to pay that back, so we're back to net zero. Some \$4 billion of the Protect Ontario fund to help businesses affected by tariffs is actually sitting unused in a bank account—no decision, no direction as to what will happen with it. In fact, it's just not working, and the job numbers tell us that, especially for young people.

This government has taken swing after swing, but they have struck out. So today I want to put forward a new, different solution with my Ontario Liberal colleagues that will make a material difference for young workers struggling in Ontario, with the added benefit of supporting the backbone of our economy: small businesses. We call it the youth career fund. The idea is to put youth back to work through a wage subsidy similar to Canada Summer Jobs. We would propose using \$450 million of the Protect Ontario account to create between 47,000 and 75,000 jobs for young people in Ontario right now.

Small and medium-sized enterprises, those with up to 500 employees, could apply to subsidize a job for a young Ontario resident aged 15 to 30. Why are we focusing on that sector, Speaker? Because we know that that sector is also struggling. The government has no plan to help them. They've defeated my proposal to cut small business taxes a couple of times, and we know that

more businesses are exiting the marketplace, about 90,000 in 2024, compared to those starting up a new business, about 79,000.

The small business sector used to contribute two thirds of private sector jobs; it's down to about 61%. So they need support, and today I'm giving this government another chance to help them.

What would that look like for eligible businesses? Businesses would apply under a general stream providing a wage subsidy of \$6,000 or under a high-demand stream providing \$9,500 for businesses who either need highly skilled workers, are part of strategic industries or are hit hard by US tariffs. Qualifying job postings would be full-time jobs lasting about 20 weeks, and that subsidy would cover 49% of 10 35-hour weeks at minimum wage; \$9,500 would be about \$27 a week.

We know that this government can't help themselves when it comes to rewarding their insider friends, so we're proposing a simple solution to the administration of this program: Applications would be managed by the non-partisan public servants under the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade—no politics, no helping insider friends, just results for young workers, as it should be.

In the spirit of collaboration and urgency to address the crisis in youth unemployment in Ontario today, I urge this government to set aside their partisanship, forgo rewarding their insider friends and forge ahead and do what's right: Bring back hope for young workers in Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

Mr. Sheref Sabawy: I appreciate the opportunity to speak about how our government is helping Ontario youth prepare for the workforce and addressing labour market needs across the province.

The motion before us calls for a youth wage subsidy program. While I respect the intent, a stand-alone wage subsidy is a short-term tool. Young people deserve pathways that lead to credentials, completion and careers. It doesn't give youth what they really need: good jobs that pay well, are meaningful and help them build a future. It also doesn't create the kind of economy where young people can truly succeed.

Our government is focused on building pathways to long-lasting careers through training, apprenticeships and hands-on experience. Our government is making record investments in building Ontario infrastructure—building hospitals, Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass. We are investing in programs that prepare youth for the jobs of tomorrow and strengthen Ontario's workforce for the future.

Ontario's labour market is constantly evolving, and our approach must reflect that. Approximately one third of skilled workers in Ontario are nearing retirement, meaning filling jobs in the skilled trades and emerging industries is essential to securing Ontario's future. These are the workers we need to build Ontario, build our homes and build our infrastructure and highways to keep our people and goods moving.

To tackle this problem, our government has an unwavering commitment to invest in training to ensure we have the skilled workforce we need to fill vacancies. Critical to that investment are our young people. Rather than a band-aid solution, we are investing in training and programs to ensure all of Ontario's youth have the opportunity to enter a meaningful career.

Young people are an important focus of our provincial program to fill gaps in the labour market and contribute to Ontario's economy. Our plan is to provide accessible training to youth in Ontario to provide a skilled trades pipeline to secure our province's future and drive our economic success long term.

The Skills Development Fund is fundamental to our long-term plan. Since it launched in 2021, Ontario has invested \$1.5 billion through this fund to support more than 1,000 training projects across the province. These projects have trained over 700,000 workers preparing for in-demand careers in sectors like construction, manufacturing, health care and technology.

In this year's budget, this government committed an additional \$1-billion investment over three years. Our goal is simple: better training for better jobs with bigger paycheques.

Of course, youth are an essential part of this program. Through the SDF funding, we have supported hundreds of programs to train thousands of young Ontarians for meaningful careers. In fact, through the fifth round of SDF, over 50 projects are being delivered in partnership with colleges and other youth-focused organizations across Ontario, totalling about \$120 million in funding.

The SDF is also helping to build and modernize training centres through its capital stream. Ontario has committed over \$370 million to renovate and expand facilities or construct new, state-of-the-art training spaces. These facilities will allow students and apprentices to have access to hands-on learning environments that support their training and prepare them for in-demand careers.

Madam Speaker, Ontario's young people don't want a one-off subsidy. They want a clear path to a good job, one that pays the bills today and builds a career tomorrow. That's exactly what our plan delivers.

Through the Skills Development Fund, apprenticeship pathways like OYAP, FAST and pre-apprenticeship and hands-on exposure at Level Up!, we are investing at a record scale to give youth the skills employers need and the credentials that lift wages without relying on permanent subsidies.

Through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, we have invested over \$22 million to give students, as early as grade 11, hands-on apprenticeship training while they complete their high school education. The new, Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training—FAST—stream was launched this September to allow students in grades 11 and 12 to earn additional co-op credits, making apprenticeship experience more accessible.

The Ontario Pre-apprenticeship Training Program helps people facing barriers by providing wraparound supports, including youth, to gain the work experience and training needed to be job-ready at no cost while addressing skilled trades shortages in high-demand trades.

Eligible organizations, such as colleges or community agencies, are selected to deliver pre-apprenticeship training through an annual call for proposals. And to help employers support career growth in the trades, our Achievement Incentive Program aims to ensure and to encourage employers to train apprentices towards trade program progression, completion and certification through milestone payments. The achievement incentive also provides enhanced financial incentives for employers to hire and train apprentices under the age of 25, as well as apprentices from equity-deserving and underrepresented groups.

Finally, Ontario Job Creation Partnerships provide funding to employers for projects that create meaningful work experience for job seekers, including youth.

Level Up! career fairs: The ministry also hosts Level Up! skilled trades career fairs, providing hands-on experience with the trades to students and inspire them to consider rewarding, in-demand careers. First launched in 2022, Level Up! is an impressive program that travels across Ontario to demonstrate the pride and possibilities that come with joining the skilled trades and provides immersive experience with the skilled trades.

Last year, nearly 45,000 students, parents and teachers from more than 700 schools participated in these events. Students had the chance to step into the skilled trades first-hand, connect directly with employers and learn about employment pathways from classroom to career. So far this year, Level Up! open houses have seen over 27,000 students across 403 schools across Ontario. These events are opening doors to rewarding careers and empowering youth to explore new possibilities by providing hands-on experiences and real-world connections. We are helping to break the stigma by highlighting that careers in the skilled trades are a great first option, not a backup plan.

We are seeing the impact: Interest in the skilled trades is growing, and apprenticeship registrations are increasing. In 2024-25, Ontario recorded over 16,000 new youth apprenticeship registrations, the highest in a decade, and a 13.6% year-over-year increase. Over 21,000 students are expected to participate in OYAP this year. In October, 18,800 youth jobs were added, the youth unemployment rates declined and the youth participation rate in the labour market increased.

Ontario also provided programs for individuals who need to retrain for new careers, and that includes young people as well. Through Better Jobs Ontario, eligible individuals can receive up to \$35,000 for training and living costs to prepare for in-demand occupations. This program helps job seekers, including youth and those facing barriers, gain the skills they need for stable employment. The province also offers job placement opportunities for youth, helping them gain hands-on experience and build meaningful careers in public service.

Through our integrated employment services, we are providing locally responsive employment services to our youth, helping unemployed youth find work in the sectors driving this province forward.

Madam Speaker, these programs are part of a comprehensive approach to workforce development. They are designed to create pathways for youth, newcomers and others facing barriers to employment. They also help employers recruit the skilled workers they need to grow and succeed.

While Ontario does not have a youth wage subsidy program, the province continues to focus on long-term strategies that address skills gaps and prepare young people for sustainable careers. A temporary wage top-up can help for a season, but training plus apprenticeship helps for a lifetime, with completion bonuses, employer incentives and Red Seal pathways that grow wages without ongoing subsidies.

Our message to every young person is simple: Your first job can be your first step to a career. We'll keep funding the training, placements and apprenticeship supports that get you there.

I invite all members to support scaling what works. These efforts are about more than just jobs; they are about helping young people realize their potential, contribute to their communities and shape the future of our province.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

Ms. Peggy Sattler: I'm pleased to rise today to speak on behalf of the official opposition during this debate on opposition day motion 2, which calls on the government to do something—

Ms. Catherine Fife: Anything.

Ms. Peggy Sattler: Yes, do anything—about the jobs crisis that we have right now in this province.

We know that this Premier and this government have the distinction of being a full-fledged jobs disaster for the people of Ontario. The motion that we have before us today has some alarming statistics, Speaker, that should be a wake-up call for everybody in this Legislature and particularly on the government side.

The motion notes that youth unemployment in Ontario now stands at almost 18% overall, which is higher in Ontario than in any other province in Canada. In fact, it's the highest it's been in in three decades in this province, with the exception of the pandemic. That is very alarming, Speaker, because there are long-term consequences when young people cannot get into the labour market. I'll talk more about that in a moment.

These high, frightening rates of unemployment among young people are happening across all age levels and all levels of educational attainment. We see in particular that unemployment is just shooting through the roof for teens in this province, with young people aged 15 to 19—close to one quarter of those young people now find themselves unemployed in this province. That is a significant increase from 2019, just after this government took office. Similarly, among young people aged 20 to 24, the rate went up from just under 10% in 2019 to now more than 13% in 2025. Even among older youth, those aged 25 to 29, rates of unemployment are still increasing from 6.2% when this government took office to 8.7% today.

This government is failing young people in this province.

Interjection.

Ms. Peggy Sattler: Yes. We see young people who are already struggling with escalating costs of rent. Just earlier this morning, the government rammed through new measures to make it easier to evict good tenants, make it easier for unethical landlords to evict tenants who have done everything right. Many of those tenants, as we know, are young people—if they have had the financial ability to get out of their parents' homes and find an apartment. Now they are very, very worried about what the government's changes are going to be for their ability to pay the rent.

We also know that young people, and in particular students, school-age young people, are really struggling to pay for their groceries. Almost one quarter of our post-secondary students in this province rely on food banks. Something like a third of post-secondary students have said they have skipped meals through the week while they are in their studies because they can't afford to buy food. Clearly, enabling more young people to get into the labour market and

enabling young people to generate some income would be particularly helpful as young people, along with everybody else in this province, are grappling with the increasing costs of living.

I wanted to move on to some of the concerns related to when young people don't get into the labour market. What happens to their career prospects in the long term? This is a phenomenon that has been described as labour market scarring. Those young people are scarred for many years because of their inability to get that leg up into the labour market with a first job or a job while they are studying. They see lower lifetime earnings, which of course has an impact on our tax base in this province. They see delayed career progression. They see a loss of confidence within themselves, which has a direct impact on their mental health.

We see longer periods of persistent unemployment and underemployment among young people who haven't been able to find that critically important first job. There are delays in owning a home, as I said, saving for retirement and many other consequences that we are seeing because of this government's lack of action.

Now, we did hear the Premier offer a solution a couple of months ago when he told the young people of Ontario that all they had to do was just work harder—work harder.

Speaker, we on this side of the House do not believe that that is an appropriate solution for the government to offer. It is, in fact, a completely unacceptable position for this government to take, to point the finger at those job seekers who are desperate to find employment and to say that they are the problem, that they just simply have not worked hard enough. So today, the Liberals have come to this Legislature and have suggested to the government that what they should be doing to address this chronic youth unemployment is to establish a youth wage subsidy program.

Now, wage subsidies have their place as a tool to help prospective employees get that critical, first-hand job experience that they need to be able to move forward in their careers. So a youth wage subsidy program can be a good thing, and it is something that New Democrats would support. But we do want to flag some of the problems that can occur with a wage subsidy program that is not well designed.

Some of the common drawbacks that are associated with wage subsidy programs include employers accessing the funds to pay for a hiree who they would have hired anyway. They already had the budget; they heard that there's this wage subsidy, so they're going to use the subsidy to hire that person that they would have hired anyway. There's no net benefit. We're not increasing the net number of people who are employed. We're just seeing employers use the public dollars rather than the money that they were already thinking of allocating.

We also can see workers who are attached to a subsidy getting employment and comparable workers with comparable job prospects don't get employment because they don't have access to a subsidy. So there are definite problems with wage subsidy programs that are not well defined.

But one the best practices in wage subsidy programs—and I make this suggestion to the Liberal caucus, because it's something that they should definitely be looking at. They cite the Canada Summer Jobs Program in this motion, which, I agree: That is a very effective program. I've heard from countless non-profits in London West who can't wait to file that application to get the wage subsidy for Canada Summer Jobs so they can hire a young person during the summer.

The problem is that I don't think a single one of those non-profits can make that position into permanent employment after the subsidy ends, and that is a real concern, both for those non-profits that are relying on the wage subsidy but also for that young person. It does provide that valuable short-term experience that can be helpful getting into the labour market, but it does not often transition into full-time employment.

But one of the ways that we definitely can transition young people into full-time employment using a wage subsidy is through paid work-integrated learning. And there is another federal program—it's called the Student Work Placement Program—that offers financial support for employers to provide work-integrated learning opportunities, which are co-ops or internships or other forms of work placements, through the young person's educational institution.

The partnering employer gets a wage subsidy to provide employment that aligns with the student's educational program, it aligns with the student's career interest and, often, it results in permanent employment for the young person who is engaged in the work-integrated learning that is assisted with a federal wage subsidy.

There was a recent evaluation of the Student Work Placement Program, and I think one of the most promising results of that evaluation was that almost half—48%—of the employers that had hired a student through the Student Work Placement Program ended up keeping that student and transitioning that employment into full-time work. That really is the goal that we want to achieve with anything—any kind of programs or financial supports that the government puts in place. We don't want to solve or address the unemployment crisis that we're experiencing here by just creating a couple of months' part-time, temporary employment for a young person; we want to create a real opportunity, a meaningful opportunity, that is going to move that young person into full-time work.

Now, there are well-established benefits of work-integrated learning that go even far beyond, in fact, the ability for the student who's engaged in WIL—work-integrated learning—to move into full-time employment. Some of the other benefits associated with participation in WIL programs, like, as I said, co-ops and internships and others, include improved job matching, higher incomes, higher likelihood of being employed in a permanent or full-time position, and there is also significant research that shows that there are more benefits associated with co-op participation, because co-ops are a form of work-integrated learning that includes a payment, so the student is paid for the work that they do while they are engaged in work-integrated learning.

Now, I want to give a shout-out to the students at Humber Polytechnic and University of Guelph-Humber. Their student union is called Ignite, and they have done significant research among their student body to talk about students' experience with work-integrated learning and, in particular, with paid work-integrated learning, like co-ops. They recently released a research report that found that in the last academic year only 20% of University of Guelph-Humber students were compensated for their work-integrated learning placements. Of course, that means 80%—four out of five—students who participated in a work-integrated learning program had to give their labour for free.

Speaker, I think that you can immediately understand some of the issues that are associated with asking students to do unpaid work-integrated learning. I talked about the financial pressures that are facing young people in this province. Students have to work part-time in order to go to post-secondary; many, many students have to work part-time in order to be able to afford housing and groceries and books and other costs associated with getting an education.

They can't just simply leave a part-time position in order to participate in an unpaid work-integrated learning experience. They may have families, especially at the college level. Many college students are older. They have families and they are geographically limited in the kinds of work-integrated learning opportunities they can participate in. So to have these unpaid opportunities—while it's better than no opportunity, it really creates barriers for many people. And of course, the biggest barrier is faced by students who don't have access to family support or savings that they have earned over the years. They simply cannot take any kind of advantage of a work-integrated learning program when it is unpaid.

So there is a real opportunity, Speaker, before us today to carry forward this Liberal motion, establish a youth wage subsidy program, but look really, really carefully at what can be achieved in this province for young people when we invest in paid work-integrated learning programs for students, provide those subsidies for employers to create those opportunities—and not just in STEM, not just in science, technology, engineering and math. We need those hands-on experiences for young people while they are in a program of study so that they can learn those practical job skills that are going to enable them to enter the labour market more quickly and more easily.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

Mr. Rob Cerjanec: It's a pleasure to talk about our opposition day motion today. We really do have a youth unemployment crisis here in Ontario. Youth unemployment is about 17.8%, the highest in Canada and the worst here since the early 1990s, outside of the pandemic. There's a lot that we need to do on this.

Young people now need almost four months to find a job, the longest wait in nearly 30 years, and it's a structural failure. It's a failure that harms families and, really, our long-term economic outlook if young people aren't able to find a job today. Yet the Premier says young people simply need to look harder. Well, I wish it was that simple. If that was true, would the Premier believe the thousands of people that waited hours in line at the CNE for jobs that were still out of reach for so many—were those young people unmotivated? I don't think so, Speaker. Those lines show that those jobs are disappearing. It's not a reflection on the ambition of our youths.

When young adults can't find work, Ontario loses out on productivity, innovation and future talent—accepting, maybe, that they're not going to be able to go in the career that they really would like to do. Early unemployment leads to long-term consequences, including lower earnings and lost skills development. The cuts that we're seeing in the college sector of important programs in folks' communities are now impacting those employers, and it's impacting those students.

Small businesses struggling with US tariffs—well, they need support. They'd benefit from hiring youths, if those opportunities existed. And if we ignore this problem in Ontario and just say, "Oh, maybe it will get better," which seems to be the approach of the government right now, we risk a generation-wide productivity gap that will further weaken Ontario's economy for decades.

Traditional entry-level roles, we're seeing, are rapidly disappearing. We see that automation in AI does replace early jobs in retail, administration, customer service and seasonal work. You know, the nature of work is changing. That's why it's so important that as a province we've got a youth jobs plan, but then that we've got a plan around AI, that we have a plan around innovation. How do we create new jobs and new opportunities in every single corner of Ontario?

We're seeing now that employers are increasingly expecting AI literacy, which makes sense. Yet many youths have never had access to the necessary training. So without action, we'll expect skills from young people that they'll never have been given the chance to learn in the first place.

We know countries like Singapore and Estonia are already teaching AI literacy in elementary school. Ontario is really far behind. Our public education system, our universities, our colleges need to give students exposure to new technologies so that they can compete in an AI-driven economy. It doesn't have to limit opportunity. It can actually create more opportunity and enhance our productivity in the way we do things here in Ontario. With proper training and real entry-level roles, it can expand opportunity and really help youth succeed.

The federal Canada Summer Jobs program has created hundreds of thousands of opportunities that help both youth and small businesses. Ontario doesn't have a similar program, despite having the worst youth labour market in the country. A provincial wage subsidy will reduce hiring costs. It will create thousands of entry-level jobs and give youth the experience that they need in order to build careers here. Supporting this motion, I would say, Speaker, is practical, it's effective and it's long overdue.

Early jobs teach much more than just workplace tasks. They build money management, time responsibility, communication skills and independence. My own first job was at McDonald's. I was 14, turning 15 years old. Do you know what it did for me? It gave me freedom, it gave me responsibility and it gave me some more money in my pocket, too, so that I could go out on my own and do things.

Today, folks in my community—I've heard it from families, I've heard it from young people, that their kids cannot find these same opportunities, even when they try everywhere, dropping off résumé after résumé after résumé at places. We are in a youth jobs crisis. For many young people, especially from low-income or racialized backgrounds, a job is a lifeline, and sometimes it is a matter of survival to help those families succeed. Those foundational experiences help shape the workforce that we need here in Ontario.

I'll just say, Speaker, Ontario's youth are not the problem. They are the solution. We need a government here at Queen's Park that is going to be respecting young people and creating more jobs and opportunities for them. We can either blame youth for structural issues or we can take action to fix those issues. Supporting this motion means investing in our future workforce, our communities and the long-term prosperity of our province. I strongly urge those members to support this motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Further debate?

Mr. Stephen Blais: Mr. Speaker, Ontario is facing a youth employment crisis, one that cannot be ignored. Today in Ontario more than 200,000 young people are out of work. The youth unemployment rate is over 16%, and it was recently at 17.8%, the highest in Canada. Think about it, Mr. Speaker: One in six young Ontarians can't find a job. They're doing everything right. They're finishing school. They're sending out résumés. They're trying to build a future, and yet the doors just aren't opening. It's so bad that youth unemployment under this Conservative government is at rates not seen since the New Democrats were in power. When your government has economic comparables to the only NDP government in history, you know you have a problem. In fact, even the New Democratic whip called it "alarming" in her remarks today.

The average wait for a young person to find a job is now three and a half months, the longest in 29 years. That's almost an entire summer gone before a single callback. And while young workers wait, Ontario businesses—especially small businesses—are struggling too. Many are being squeezed by rising costs and US tariffs. They want to hire, but they can't afford to take the risk.

So what does this government do? Instead of helping, the Premier blames young people, telling over 200,000 young unemployed Ontarians to "look harder." Speaker, that is not leadership. If the Premier took even a fraction of the time he spends defending insiders and friends and instead listened to the next generation of Ontario workers, maybe they wouldn't be in this position.

We are proposing a real, practical solution: the youth career fund. We would invest \$450 million—money that already exists, that is sitting idle in the Protecting Ontario Account—to create tens of thousands of jobs for young people right now.

Small and medium-sized businesses with under 500 employees could apply for a wage subsidy to hire Ontarians between the ages of 15 and 30. That means real work experience, real paycheques and real hope—all without new taxes or new bureaucracy.

Nous proposons une solution concrète et pratique : le fonds pour l'emploi des jeunes. Nous proposons d'investir 450 millions de dollars—des fonds qui existent déjà et qui dorment dans le compte Protéger l'Ontario—afin de créer entre 47 000 et 75 000 emplois pour les jeunes aujourd'hui.

We know that this model works. We've seen it with the Canada Summer Jobs program, a proven model that has created hundreds of thousands of opportunities for students and small businesses across the country. Programs like this give young people a start—a chance to develop skills, build networks and gain confidence. They also give small businesses the talent they need to grow and to compete.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't charity; it's an investment in Ontario's future workforce—an investment that pays off for everyone. Coupled with our proposed 50% cut to small business taxes, Ontario Liberals are proposing concrete measures to help Ontario small businesses and the entrepreneurs that run them.

The choice before us is simple: Like the Premier, we can keep telling young Ontarians to look harder, or we can help them to climb higher. We can keep hoarding billions of dollars in government slush funds, or we can put that money to work, literally, by giving thousands of young people a job, a paycheque and a reason to stay here in Ontario. Every generation deserves a fair shot at success, so let's give them that chance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Further debate?

Mr. Adil Shamji: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to rise on an issue that is impacting far too many of my constituents in Don Valley East and Ontarians across this entire province. That specific issue is the rampant unemployment on the background of unprecedented unaffordability in Ontario.

We face an affordability crisis at a time that this government is posting a record deficit, at the same time that that record deficit sits against record spending with little to show for it and, of

course, record unemployment. As you've heard from my colleagues already, Ontario faces unprecedented unemployment and, in fact, the highest youth unemployment in the entire country. That unemployment is as bad as it was during COVID-19 and, prior to that, worse than the last three decades of progress in addressing unemployment. Laughably, that record of unemployment that we face right now—this record unemployment—sits on the background of a government that marches behind the banner that they will protect Ontario. Protect Ontario for who?

No doubt this government is doing a lot of work to protect the Minister of Labour who, in turn, is doing a lot of work to protect some of his friends and donors. This is a government that has no problem coming up with billions for booze, billions for buddies and billions for burrowing under the 401. But when it actually comes down to the work that needs to happen in order to fight for real jobs here in this province, there's no action.

We can see at this time that there's a major problem with home building in Ontario, and we've heard time and time again that this government is going to stand up against authoritarian leaders down south and they're going to protect us from tariffs. Yet as we face a rampant loss of construction jobs and as we face a stalled home-building sector, when they have the opportunity to kick-start that home-building sector by building more homes through, for example, eliminating the HST for all homebuyers on new primary residences, they won't do it and therefore miss out on a valuable opportunity to resuscitate and support our steel and timber sectors. Okay. Well, that was one option that we provided to this government that could have helped bring back jobs, that could help kick-start our economy.

Here's another one: My fabulous colleague from Don Valley West has gone forward and said, "Look, let's create a youth wage subsidy"—something that can create something up to 75,000 jobs in the first iteration alone. You know, every time I go back to my constituency office, every Friday, there is a lineup—not actually a lineup, but a series of individuals, a series of complaints from my constituents who are struggling to find work. Of course, that's across the board, but particularly for young people who are trying to find work.

For people who are unemployed, unfortunately, not only has this government had nothing to offer them, it has not even been able to offer them even a moment of hope. This is the same Premier who said to unemployed people that all you have to do is get off your A-S-S and find work.

Our youth unemployment rate is something like 18%. The people who come to my office and who ask my constituency staff for help have been trying to find work, and they can't find it. Even the employment agencies that they're turning to for help are overwhelmed. In fact, some of them that I've been in contact with are so overwhelmed they're asking for help themselves, but their Skills Development Fund applications are getting rejected so that this government can instead send their money over to nightclubs and strip clubs. So let's get serious.

The exceptional member from Don Valley West has put forward an amazing solution, one that would cost something on the order of about \$450 million and deliver up to 75,000 jobs. I'm keenly aware \$450 million is a lot of money, but it is about 10% of the Protect Ontario fund, which has been largely untouched. So we have an option here: Provide money to nightclubs and adult entertainment establishments, or let's get our young people back to work. I say, Don Valley East says and the Ontario Liberal caucus says: Let's get young people to work.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ric Bresee): Further debate?

Ms. Catherine Fife: It's a pleasure to join the debate on really a very fundamental issue that should concern all of us in the province of Ontario, and this is the state of youth unemployment right now. My colleague from London West really outlined a number of options that are available to the government. The third party has presented a motion today for your consideration.

I do remember—it wasn't that long ago that we all were, "We're all in this together. There's no such thing as a bad idea." We should be throwing everything at the wall right now to address youth unemployment and certainly the housing crisis, which obviously is connected to that, and also the chronic and systemic underfunding of our post-secondary institutions.

What we see is a very different rhetoric from the government of the day. They are buckling down; they've got their own little slush fund thing happening here with the Skills Development Fund. I can't believe a member of the House would actually stand in his place and brag about the Skills Development Fund when the OPP is now investigating that fund for anti-racketeering, when we're actually following the money through the Skills Development Fund, which is supposed to be part of the solution to address youth and chronic unemployment. What we've learned when you do follow the money is that you have to pay to play in this Legislature.

I've said many times, on many occasions now, that many of us feel like we're actually fighting for our very democracy in this place because you are silencing the people that were elected to serve; you are undermining the democratic process; you are silencing people at committee and not letting us have our due diligence as legislators in this place, to ensure that legislation meets the needs of the people of this province. And you're acting like this is business as usual. The arrogance and the hubris are astounding to me right now.

Yet here we are. You have an opportunity. It's a reach across the aisle. It's an option for your consideration to address that one in four people in the province of Ontario—for youth—are unemployed. Those are only the people that we know who are looking for work. So many more people have given up. They are underemployed; they've said, "No, Ontario is not working for me."

And then you'll see the out-migration numbers. We are losing talent and skills like we have never before. Ontario is unaffordable. You have a government mired in scandal. You have a Premier who barely understands that he's not running a sticker business. The rental and the housing market in Ontario are untenable. And all of us know this, Mr. Speaker.

The skilled trades are such a core part of building Ontario up, right? When people reach their potential, our province will reach our potential. We hear a lot from this minister about skilled trades, and I just want to raise a new voice on this issue, because skilled trades is an honourable, integrity-filled career and profession.

My own son is an electrician. He's already making more money than I am. He still can't afford a house in Ontario, but I'm so proud of him. I'm so proud that he followed his dream and became an electrician. He does really good work. There's honour and dignity in that field. His wife is a nurse—still can't get a full-time job in a hospital even though there's a nursing shortage. Can you imagine that? Something is going on in the province of Ontario, and it's not above board, I can tell you that much.

I want to just talk to you about Tyler. Tyler is pursuing an apprenticeship as a truck and coach mechanic. He has gone through the skilled trades pipeline, if you will. And you'll remember, Madam Speaker—because you were here when the Ontario College of Trades was dismantled and then they brought in Skilled Trades Ontario. Well, we've got some issues with Skilled Trades Ontario, which will interrupt the pathway for skilled trades professions.

I did write the Minister of Labour. He was a little busy, you know, handing out money to his friends and family. This letter is dated August 21—still have not received a response. But I did send this letter to him in the spirit of genuine “let's correct this issue.”

Tyler has shared his experience with my office. He wants to be employed. He wants to reach his professional—

Interjection.

Ms. Catherine Fife: It's not this Tyler. No, that Tyler in the corner pays attention. I can't say that about all of you, I can tell you that much.

Anyway, he wrote to me, and he's asked me to bring this issue to the floor of Ontario's Legislature, and I do that because it's an honour to do so. But since Skilled Trades Ontario has taken over the apprenticeship registration, completions and exam services—and this is the key part: Since these changes have taken place, we have been inundated with how weak this program is.

Some of these experiences from apprentices that they're sharing with us:

- there's one to two hours of wait time on the phone;
- there are 140 people waiting in line to book an exam;
- they are being kicked out of the exam platform multiple times while in the middle of writing and then being sent home;
- they can't log on to this account;
- they have limited locations for writing;
- they have poor customer service at the exam writing locations;
- there are cramped, narrow waiting rooms with not a lot of space;
- no access to washrooms during the exam;
- waiting more than a month to receive test results;
- a two-month wait-list to schedule a retest;
- exam sites are overcrowded and not conducive to focus and concentration; and
- inconsistent access to accommodations for apprentices with learning needs or test anxiety.

These exams play a pivotal role in shaping the future careers of tradespeople across the province of Ontario. The listed examples cause unnecessary stress and can prevent otherwise highly skilled and capable apprentices from successfully completing the certification process.

At a time when Ontario is facing a critical labour shortage in the skilled trades, it's more important than ever that our systems support apprentices in achieving their full potential.

We've asked the Minister of Labour—who has responsibility for the skilled trades in Ontario—to ensure that apprentices are provided with exam sites which are quiet and distraction-free, not too much to ask; consistent exam administration across all locations, not too much to ask; access to basic needs during exams, like water and washroom breaks; an environment where staff are trained to create a respectful and supportive, non-intimidating environment.

I want to tell you, I think Tyler has written this test five or six times. The pass rate, I believe, is 70%. He's gotten 68%, 69%, 68%, 69%. There's no assistance for him to get to 70%. It's 1%—1%, Madam Speaker.

Now, I know the 1% that this government works for. I'm very concerned about the 1% that is preventing a skilled tradesperson from finding employment and reaching their potential so our province can reach its potential. Tyler deserves better, and every apprentice in the province of Ontario deserves better. Skills Ontario needs to do better, and I think we can all agree, on this side of the House, we need a much better Minister of Labour.

Interjections.

Ms. Catherine Fife: Yes.

So here we are. My colleague went through the stats; they're pretty dire. They're pretty scary, actually. And the reason why we need to get youth employment right: so we don't lose the talent that the province needs. But these are future workers in health care, in education, in the construction sector. We cannot afford for them to lose hope.

In fact, this should be a unifying call for every lawmaker in this place. You should put partisanship aside. Let's do one thing right. It's going to take a long time to undo all the damage that you have done, but we can do this one thing together. We can create some supports for businesses out there who are looking for employees but can't afford them. What about that? That's quite a concept.

I want to say that wage subsidies obviously have their place in an economy, especially during what is now almost an official recession in Ontario. And all I see from the government members is this—you know, I always think of a Monty Python sketch: Always Look on the Bright Side of Life. Everyone is hanging there, but you're not seeing what's actually happening. You need to acknowledge that youth in Ontario are hurting right now, and they deserve leadership that meets the needs of their potential.

There are other jurisdictions that are doing a really, really good job. The Saskatchewan Youth Internship Program, for instance—this is actually for high school students. It gives youth paid work experience, mentoring and even high school credits, all while building towards potential apprenticeship hours. Why can't you do something like this instead of, really, creating chaos in our economy, which undermines investment in our economy, which also goes full circle to job creation?

I wish this government was serious about the oath that we took when we became lawmakers here. We are supposed to come to this place to work for the people, not to work for your friends and family, not for the special interests. You need to actually do a better job.

Interjections.

Ms. Catherine Fife: I appreciate the humour from the other side. I would be hiding my face too if I was a member of this government.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

Ms. Lee Fairclough: It's my pleasure to rise today to speak to the issue of unemployment among young people. The rising rates of unemployment in Ontario should have everybody in this chamber feeling concerned and shocked.

The Premier said that young people just need to try harder to find employment, and it shows how out of touch he is with the real lives of young people today. Not everyone is lucky enough to be born into a family with their own business.

Let's look at some of the facts: 17.8% youth unemployment in September; young people are facing much higher housing costs and the struggle to start their lives, pay off student debt and a devastating employment market; nearly three in five Canadians worry about losing their homes or rental because of financial issues; and food bank use and rent affordability—this concern is especially pronounced among younger Canadians.

The Daily Bread Food Bank, an organization in my riding of Etobicoke—Lakeshore, found that last year nearly a quarter—23% of its clients—were students. And this past summer, I heard from many young people as they struggled to find the typical jobs that all of us would be accustomed to. Jobs like lifeguarding or being a camp counsellor or working in a coffee shop were very limited. And what is even more striking is that as people graduate from college, university or programs they've pursued, it's just as difficult to find the work. Some students come forward and they're offering to volunteer their time in our offices, but this really should not be what is needed.

Speaker, too many are struggling after graduation. Do you know that 57% of those using food banks have university and college degrees? It should be that you work hard, you get an education, you have a strong work ethic and there is work for you, especially in this province.

What we are proposing in this program would allow young people an opportunity. It would also allow small- and medium-sized businesses in our communities to have a chance to hire bright young people at the start of their careers, especially right now with the precarity that we're seeing with the economy. It would really start to jump start their careers.

As a mom of two teenage boys, I look at the world ahead of them and what they will need to work for to build their lives, and I see them and their friends—they're committed to their activities, their extracurriculars, they're doing everything they can to be ready when it's time for them to enter the workforce. It is up to us. It's up to governments to create the conditions to allow young people to thrive, and we need this program now to support our young people. That is why we put forward this motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

Ms. Mary-Margaret McMahon: It is an honour to rise in this chamber, always, to represent the beautiful people of beautiful Beaches—East York, and I have two in the chamber, as I mentioned today. I have Heidi and Jane. Jane is a grade 12 student, and I'm going to talk to you about an amazing thing that she's done. But first of all, I want to—I'm proud of this opposition day motion

that my colleague has brought forward—we've all brought forward—to deal with youth unemployment. It is a drastic state of affairs out there, if you remember, back in my day—back in your day—how easy it was to get a job, actually.

I first started working at 13 years of age. I was a chambermaid at the Rainbow Motel in Collingwood. And that was a lesson—for many reasons for me—in making my bed. Then I was a cashier at Loblaws. I worked in an ice cream parlour. I was a lifeguard. I was a Red Cross homemaker. I was a waitress at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, and I was a waitress at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. I was not a very good waitress, which explains why my name was never on the schedule again. And I just want to apologize to the customer whom I spilled soup on, back a hundred years ago. But all that to say, I could get a job. Any of us could get a job back in the day. It was easy; it was fun. All your friends were getting those jobs. Even if you didn't get hired again as a waitress, you could still get a job in an ice cream parlour.

Jobs were plentiful and, boy, did that lead to great confidence. You learned things, you made mistakes, and the best way to learn is by making mistakes. You earned an income, so you didn't have to mooch off your parents or your friends, you got vital skills for life, and you met friends and you met people you maybe never would want to work with again. But it was a learning experience, for sure, and our youth are robbed of that right now.

So Jane Maguire, a grade 12 student at Monarch Park Collegiate Institute, came and met with my team in the spring. I don't know what you were doing in grade 12; I sure as heck wasn't whipping up a presentation, interviewing shopkeepers, interviewing students and meeting with an elected official, a local politician. I wasn't doing that. Were any of you doing that? But she's hell-bent and bound on doing it to help others get jobs and to force us into action, to actually do something, like this amazing opposition day motion.

And so Jane went around; she's interviewing her friends. One said, "I do want a job, mainly for the extra income for my family. I mainly haven't been able to find work because many places are hiring or require a bachelor's or other degrees. I'm also disabled, so accessibility is an issue, and I can't do any job, which really bars me from a lot of opportunities. It also contributes to potential employers' perception of my capabilities."

She's interviewed other people, asking them if not having a job causes anxiety. It sure does. She's done a tremendous job. She's here in the House today if you want to talk to her.

We need to support this and get these kids back to work, like we were.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

MPP Andrea Hazell: Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about our opposition day motion. This is very emotional and means a lot to me today, speaking about the young people and small businesses.

We are in a crisis when it comes for youth employment and no support from this government for small businesses. We're not just talking about statistics but a reality of countless young Ontarians and the small businesses that serve our communities. They're not getting by. And I know a lot of my colleagues here give stats and talk about it, but I think, to this government, we've got to say it a thousand times, and I know they're still not going to get it. So I am going to be repeating the same thing today, because I'll tell you who I am representing: all those 30 people, young people and small business, that have come from Scarborough, Toronto central to

Etobicoke, to listen, to hear this government on why they're not supporting young people and they're not supporting small businesses.

I want to reference September numbers because I know they want to talk and give kudos about their October numbers, but we know that those are not real numbers. So let's see what the November numbers are going to look like. This is not merely a number, as I said; it represents real lives, real struggles and a generation that is being left behind by this government. Madam Speaker, I want to put this on record: The average wait for young people to find a job stretches to three and a half months. Do you know what that tells me? Some of these young people that can't find those jobs are going to end up living on the streets. And we hear that. In our riding, we see it and we hear it.

We've heard small businesses across this great province, businesses that currently employ 61.7% of Ontario's private sector workforce—and this is a sharp drop from the 66% they accounted for not too long ago. Madam Speaker, in plain English terms right now, we have small businesses closing faster than they're opening. These enterprises are the backbone of our economy, sustaining families and providing students with the critical foothold they need to be in the labour market. By ignoring their needs, this government is failing both our job creators and the young people who rely on them.

The Canada Summer Jobs program has proven that wage subsidies can create hundreds of thousands of jobs, opportunities for our youth. It is time for this government to step up and establish a youth wage subsidy program. This program would not only help young Ontarians kickstart their careers but would also provide small businesses with the support that they desperately need to thrive.

Madam Speaker, it gets worse. Over the next four months, twice as many small businesses expect to reduce staff than those expecting to hire, which means they are not hiring the young people anymore. There are no resources for them. There are so many businesses across Ontario that are now closing their shops.

Our immigrants came to this country with a dream to get a better life. I am one of those. And I could proudly say in this House that when I came to this country, there were opportunities and there was fairness across the board. I purchased my first home at the age of 23. I'm telling you right now, this is not the Ontario that even my kids are going to be successful in. Our young people can't afford to buy a house. Our young people are leaving school with more than \$20,000 in debts. Our young people's dreams in Ontario are at a zero state right now. And don't talk about the mental crisis that they're going through.

When I look at all the seats over there on this important motion for young people and small businesses—and I'm talking to the young people and businesses in the gallery—we have less than maybe 10 or 12 in the House sitting out of 170 seats. But I want to tell you that you are important to the people on this side of the House. We're going to continue to fight for you. We're going to continue to stand up for you. We want you to have a brighter future in Ontario than you're having right now.

And I cannot thank you enough for coming out and coming down to Queen's Park to see what democracy is all about—because this is not democracy. This is not why I came into politics. We are moving through and we are experiencing a dictatorship experience in this House, where we've got a government that is silencing young people, silencing the people that vote for them in

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this House, silencing small businesses. But we're not going to let them get away with it. We're going to keep on fighting. We're going to keep on striving. We're going to keep putting you on our shoulders, and we're not going to stop fighting until we see fairness for all of you sitting in that gallery.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Effie J. Triantafilopoulos): Further debate?

Mr. John Fraser: I'm not going to go over all the facts and figures. The reality is, we all represent young people—young people who can't get jobs. There are too many of them, 200,000. And here's the thing: The government has no plan. And that's why we have the youth career plan.

What the government has been doing is shovelling millions and millions of dollars out with no strings attached to friends and insiders and consultants and lobbyists. But they have no plan for young people—lots of plans for the people on the inside, no plan for young people. I urge my colleagues to support this motion.