THE **JOB** MARKET



by Roslyn Kunin

## Welfare: Everyone's talking

fare rates trap people at below-poverty levels and that more benefits should be given to the people and families who are trying to survive on the low incomes that social assistance provides.

Others feel welfare traps people in dependency and that every effort should be paid to get people off welfare by giving lower benefits.

Welfare issues are now front and centre because we now have a much higher proportion of the population on welfare than ever before. Current numbers indicate that roughly 10 per cent of the population now relies on social

At the same time, the provincial government that pays the welfare cheques has less money than before.

The federal government has announced cuts in funding to British Columbia.

This money, in part, helped pay for welfare costs. A growing provincial debt takes government money for interest payments and taxpayers, already paying high tax rates, are reluctant to give the government any more of their

Therefore, spending on welfare has to be controlled. The best way to do this would be to help people on welfare got jobs. This is what the provincial government is trying to do.

Most of the growth in welfare caseloads has been in young, single, ablebodied people. So, the B.C. government has announced a program called Youth Works to help such people off the social assistance caseload.

First, it will lower the rate of benefits to people under 25 years of age. It will also implement other means of dealing with those aged 16 to 19 rather than giving them welfare cheques.

Next, it will require young people receiving assistance to participate In programs that help them got and keep

This is an admirable aim, worthy of our support, but some questions do

Providing active programs like training and job search is very costly. It is unlikely that a small, or even not so small, decrease in benefit to young people will generate enough funds to give all young welfare recipients months of active help and support.

Second, one wonders if there are enough jobs out there for all the newly trained and motivated young people that these programs will produce.

The participants in the programs will get work if two conditions are met.

First, the young people must be motivated (through the program or on their own) to gain their independence from welfare, even if it means taking entrylevel jobs that may be part-time or minimum wage to start.

Second, we must start training all our young (and older) workers to be entrepreneurial and think about ways of creating their own work.

Both young people and welfare recipients have successfully started businesses in British Columbia and ended up supporting themselves and employing others. With jobs hard to find, this is the way we must go. \* \* \*

Roslyn Kunin is executive director of the Laurier Institution and president of Roslyn Kunin and Associates, Vancou-

### **CORRECTION NOTICE**

In our B11-1 Christmas flyer, Nectar Train Case on page 21 should have read 29.99. In our Women's \$50 Million Fall Fashion Clearance ad which ran on Thursday, November 30, the ad should have stated that the offer is available on selected fall fashion clearance merchandise only.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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#### SHOPPERS DRUG MART CORRECTION

Re: Savings You Want For Christmas Catalogue

Page 23: The Edenfield Gift Set containing Body Lotion, Foaming Bath Crystals and Soaps -- The Body Lotion

Page 28: The Stetson Set containing Spray Cologne (30 ml) & Non Alcohol Deodorant (56 g) should read Pour Cologne (29.5 ml) & Non Alcohol Deodorant (56 g).

Page 47: Toy Store Collectibles Gift Set 4 Figures -- This product will not be available as it has been recalled by the

We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may cause our customers. College of New Caledonia 1994-95 President's List

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