



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Blackburn Plan for regional development

“PLAN DOES NOT MEET REGIONS’ NEEDS”

- Jean-Yves Roy

Ottawa, Friday, September 15, 2006 – The Bloc Québécois critic for regional development and Member for Haute-Gaspésie—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia, **Jean-Yves Roy**, is extremely disappointed by the comments from Minister of Labour and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, regarding his promise to establish a plan to boost the economy of economically vulnerable regions.

“In the last election campaign, Minister Blackburn promised a “Marshall Plan” to revitalize the economy of Quebec’s regions; instead what he has given us with his announcement this week is a dud,” said the Bloc Québécois MP.

“The combined measures relating to the *Capital Fund for Business Succession* and the *Venture Capital Fund for Business Start-ups in the Regions* represent a total of \$13 million for Quebec regions, which is just a drop in the bucket given the regions’ needs. This \$13 million is not even new money, since it comes from previously announced budgets. Quebec’s regions have real needs if they are to safeguard existing jobs and create new one to stem the flow of people leaving major centres. This \$13 million announced this week does not in any way address the problem. It is just a bad joke,” concluded **Jean-Yves Roy**.

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