

**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

*Monday, November 28, 2005*

**Human Resources and Skills Development**

**Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, Canada is one of the very few countries in the world to show leadership and to offer compassionate care benefits for workers. The government recently recognized the opportunity to address the issue of the definition of caregiver and to offer hope to those Canadians in time of need.

Could the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development please tell the House the update as to the expected changes for this very important program?

**Hon. Belinda Stronach (Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister responsible for Democratic Renewal, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the government has recognized that we can make improvements to compassionate care to reach more Canadians.

I am pleased to inform the House that we have made significant improvements to the compassionate care benefit. The benefit will be expanded beyond immediate family members. Starting next January, Canadians will now be able to designate a person of their choice to care for them. This means not only temporary income support, but also job security. This is great news for Canadians.