

Question on Social Insurance Number

March 7, 2013

Dennis Bevington Member of Parliament:

Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives' requirement that first-time applicants for social insurance numbers have to apply in person has made it nearly impossible for people in remote communities to get a card.

In Nunavut, communities like Grise Fiord, people must travel to Iqaluit, costing thousands in air fare and a week's journey. Getting a SIN card is the first step in getting a job.

This move flies in the face of Conservative rhetoric about job creation
Will the minister reinstate the mail-in process for these cards?

Hon. Diane Finley (Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that everyone who needs a social insurance number will get one.

In fact, Service Canada will ensure that for those who are in exceptional circumstances, appropriate arrangements will be made.