

Question Period 10/21/2010

The Canadian Council on Learning/ Long-form Census

Mr. Michael Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, the government continues to choose ignorance over information. The changes to the long form census were the culmination of a series of ideological attacks on evidence gathering, like the decision to kill the Canadian Council on Learning. At a time when Canadians face demographic challenges that can only be solved by investing in education, the government cancelled the very agency that was producing the road map to a more educated Canada.

Why did the Conservative government abandon an organization that provides such critical information and leadership to Canadians?

Mr. Michael Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, killing the CCL is just rotten economics. We need to know how Canada's education system is doing so we can prepare for the new economy.

At \$17 million, the CCL was a bargain. The government is going to spend an extra \$35 million to get less information on the long form census. More spending, less information, how does that work? The president of the CCL will keep working without a salary because he, like many others, understands the importance of the CCL.

Why does the government insist on entering the new information age with no information at all?