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**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016**

Speaker: The Honourable Geoff Regan

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**Infrastructure**

**Ms. Dianne L. Watts (South Surrey—White Rock, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, the minister is taking \$15 billion away from communities, money that has already been announced for public transit, for green infrastructure, and for rural and northern communities. This is a betrayal. The communities across this country have been waiting and planning for this money to build important infrastructure projects and to create much-needed jobs.

Why are the Liberals creating high-risk schemes that will fail communities and out-of-work Canadians?

**Hon. Bill Morneau (Minister of Finance, Lib.):**

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear. We announced yesterday an historic plan for investing in infrastructure. It is an important plan that provides a \$2-billion investment in rural communities. It is an historic plan that provides, as well, a significant amount for a Canada infrastructure bank that is going to allow us to do even more with our infrastructure dollars for transformational projects. We have set out something that we know will have a big impact on our economy and on jobs both today and tomorrow.

**Ms. Dianne L. Watts (South Surrey—White Rock, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, according to reports, job creation over the last year was half of what it was over the five previous years, and no full-time jobs were created. The Liberals have increased the debt, and yesterday the finance minister announced that he will borrow yet another \$32 billion. This is for the same infrastructure plan that resulted in zero job gains.

When will the government admit that this is a failed plan and heed the advice of leading economists and stop spending more taxpayer dollars?

**Hon. Bill Morneau (Minister of Finance, Lib.):**

Mr. Speaker, it is important to know that we are moving forward on our plan, because we know that it is the right thing to do, but we also know that leading economists around the world are looking at what Canada is doing and are saying that this is absolutely what we should do.

With the fiscal situation we have and the opportunity to make investments, we are moving forward, because we know it is better for our economy, it is better for Canadians, and it will create jobs. I can say that Christine Lagarde, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, says she hopes that our policies go viral around the world. Leading economists recognize that we are doing exactly what we should be doing at this time for our economy.