

The contents of the proposed Recognition Act should be developed jointly by the federal government and designated representatives of Indian First Nations. Aside from the development of acceptable and workable legislation, the federal government should refrain from becoming directly involved in community decisions about self-government. (p. 57)

The Committee recommends that one-time funding be made available to Indian bands to assist them in developing their governments. The terms of such grants should be worked out by agreement with designated representatives of Indian First Nations. (p. 62)

The Committee suggests that a small panel be appointed jointly by the Minister of State for Indian First Nations Relations and designated representatives of Indian First Nations to review requests for recognition and consider whether they meet the agreed criteria. (p. 61)

The Committee recommends that the Governor General affirm and record federal recognition of Indian First Nation governments that are accountable to their people and for which significant support has been shown. (p. 61)

North of 60°

The Committee applauds all initiatives to design innovative government structures for the North embracing all its peoples. The Committee's recommendations focus primarily on the geographically dispersed First Nations of southern Canada, but some of the ideas presented in this report may be helpful to those working toward self-government in the North. (p. 63)

Scope of Powers

The Committee agrees that full legislative and policy-making powers on matters affecting Indian people, and full control over the territory and resources within the boundaries of Indian lands, should be among the powers of Indian First Nation governments. (p. 64)

The Committee therefore recommends that Indian First Nation governments exercise powers over a wide range of subject matters. The exact scope of jurisdiction should be decided by negotiation with designated representatives of Indian First Nations. A First Nation government should have authority to legislate in such areas as social and cultural development, including education and family relations, land and resource use, revenue-raising, economic and commercial development, and justice and law enforcement, among others. First Nation governments may also wish to make arrangements with the federal and/or provincial governments to continue existing programs or services. (p. 64)

The Committee recommends the establishment of a specialized tribunal to decide disputes in relation to agreements between Indian First Nations and other governments. Its structures, powers and procedures should be jointly decided by the federal government and designated representatives of Indian First Nations. (p. 67)

Economic Foundations

A new relationship between Indian First Nations and the federal government should ultimately result in the provision of an adequate land and resource base and the settlement of