


within Aboriginal communities. More than a decade after the *Obstacles'* recommendations, departmental programs remain 'add on' considerations that are often introduced when services to Aboriginal people are withdrawn by the provinces. Although the government has established a National Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee found no cohesive action.

Consultation and co-ordination within the federal bureaucracy remain weak links in promoting better lives for Aboriginal people with disabilities. The lack of clear departmental responsibilities, an absence of strong program structures, fragmented service development and inconsistent standards are all too evident, despite sincere intentions. The National Aboriginal Network on Disability accurately pointed out in 1990 that:

*The good intentions of one [department] are often undone by the good intentions of another, and the end result is we do not benefit as Aboriginal people with disabilities.*

*Minutes*, Issue 39, p.11, 27 November 1990



Bureaucratic barriers constantly frustrate Aboriginal people with disabilities. James (Smokey) Tomkins stated in 1990 that

*There are jurisdictional boundaries and the Aboriginal person then becomes a ping-pong ball.*

*Minutes*, Issue 39, p.29, 27 November 1990