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to get out to the grass roots. So popular was this approach that the Commission was inundated with 4,000 applications; unfortunately only 500 projects could be funded. These embraced ethnic and cultural events, sports and physical fitness, family enrichment and medical-nutritional programs.

Frequently recurring themes were poverty, isolation and rural deprivation, handicapped children, family life education, day care and day nurseries, getting children off the streets, bridging gaps between young and old.

These are just a few examples of this kaleidoscope of activities:

In Montreal, a group concerned with the lack of recreation for retarded children matched 25 normal children with 25 retarded children in a recreational setting that demonstrated the often untapped potential of the mentally handicapped.

The Indian Regional Council in Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta, is in the process of establishing a community organization to deal with first-time native juvenile offenders rather than sending them to court.

In New Waterford, Nova Scotia, a group, appropriately named "Jay", was set up in which older people taught nutrition to slow-learning children.

Responding to the enthusiasm generated by these special projects, the government has compiled a list of more than 200 on-going programs of benefit to children. These programs cover a wide range of health, nutrition, and day care activities as well as educational films. IYC has heightened our awareness of the need for a higher priority in helping disadvantaged Canadian children. Although Canadians are blessed with a high standard of living, with universal health care and a broad range of welfare and social services, we nonetheless have children who are poor, badly nourished, abused, diseased, under-educated, unsupervised and uncared for. These are the innocent victims of a changing society in which family life is subjected to economic and social stress that is sometimes too much to cope with.

Having identified the principal areas of concern in the well-being of children, the Canadian Commission has drawn up a National Agenda addressing 12 areas: economic issues, the family, health and welfare, life skills and education, play and immigration, children and the law, television and the media, culture and children, international and intercultural understanding, child care and protection, native peoples, nature and the environment. Governments and non-governmental organizations across Canada will be asked to implement recommendations growing out of this National Agenda.

To meet the special needs of children today who are growing up in a world of confused moral values requires more than programs to alleviate specific problems. IYC has taught us that the good of family life ought to have a central place in the formulation of public policy. Families are affected by powerful economic and social forces over which they have little control – unemployment, inflation, increased housing costs. If we truly want to advance the rights of children we must examine more

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