

## FOREWORD

The purpose of this report is to share some of the understanding we have accumulated. The report does not prescribe specific actions, other than to strongly suggest that Canadians, through their governments, have a lot of work to do in this decade. This is not a challenge facing only one government or only one Minister. This is a challenge for all Canadians, a circumstance that has developed over a series of generations, and one which will require concerted commitment over many years.

While there are enormous challenges to be met, there are also many positive developments in this field. In the course of their work, members of the committee have found successes and advances in many spheres of collective and individual endeavour. These success stories deserve greater public exposure to help other Canadians struggling with the same problems and issues in their own communities.

The committee invites all Canadians to become aware of the issues that face aboriginal Canadians, because these issues do not affect aboriginal Canadians alone. These issues affect all Canadians. They affect the future strength, prosperity, sense of fairness and tolerance that allows all Canadians to define themselves.

As we enter the decade of the 1990's, Canadians will want to consider to what extent the enclosed list of issues will have been advanced by the end of the decade. The committee also invites all Canadians to participate, each in their own way, to advance these issues. Awareness of aboriginal issues and challenges is a necessary first step.

The committee and the Chair in particular, are greatly indebted to the outstanding research and guidance provided by Parliamentary Researcher, Wendy Moss. We are also very grateful for the dedicated efforts and work of Clerk of the committee, Martine Bresson. I personally thank all members of the committee for their guidance, cooperation and hard work. I look forward to working with them as we take on this agenda, important to all Canadians, and particularly important to aboriginal Canadians.