



In November 1991, as part of the National Strategy, the Departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and National Health and Welfare each launched initiatives for Aboriginal people with disabilities who live on reserves. While the Committee appreciates these initiatives, it recognizes that they are essentially limited to gathering information and to 'co-ordination'. DIAND will provide \$5 million over five years to improve the co-ordination and accessibility—and to promote the design and delivery—of existing programs and services. Regional offices will work with Aboriginal organizations to determine how to achieve these objectives. Health and Welfare Canada, for its part, is planning to use \$1.3 million to speak with Aboriginal organizations, as well as with elderly and disabled people on reserve, in order to gather information for the development of home care standards, training requirements and management structures.

While the Departments will not fund or deliver new programs or services, the mere existence of these initiatives will undoubtedly raise expectations and may eventually lead to frustration. As Richard Frizell, Director, Social Development, B.C. Region, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, reported in January 1992:

2. Officials from the Department stressed that "the emphasis of the department's action is first, on involving all Canadians and mobilizing community action; second, on sharing information and solutions; third, on improving national information about disability; and fourth, on co-ordinating federal action." [*Minutes*, Issue 10, p.6, 18 February 1992].