

rate, approaches which address addiction problems. We believe that in areas such as those the application of traditional medicine and native culture perhaps can be more successful than anything we could offer in terms of contemporary psychiatric approaches to those kinds of problems. (Department of National Health and Welfare, Sub 6:29-30)

Unlike the testimony on education and child welfare, where possible systems for delivering services were described, witnesses did not specify how health care services should be provided. The emphasis was on control of the system rather than designing new systems. Indian witnesses emphasized that, as a guiding principle, Indian First Nations should have flexibility in establishing arrangements for the delivery of services in general. This could involve negotiating with provinces or private enterprises to provide the actual services or providing them themselves. Control would remain with the Indian First Nation.

Several Indian First Nations have already taken steps to assume control over health matters. The Alberta Indian Health Care Commission was established in 1980 to act as a province-wide board of Indian health. The Cree Board of Health and Social Services, set up pursuant to the provisions of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, was created so that the Cree would have local and regional control of health and social services. But, as noted earlier, ill-health is not an isolated issue that can be resolved with more and better medical facilities. Through the exercise of Indian self-government Indian people will be able to control the other problems to which ill-health is linked, in this way improving the state of Indian health.

In summary, many witnesses asserted that there are matters that must be controlled by Indian communities to ensure their cultural survival. Jurisdiction over such areas as education, child welfare and health is considered essential. By exercising control over these matters, Indian people could ensure that future generations were able to preserve and enjoy their culture and heritage. The balance of this report is devoted to recommendations that will help to create the conditions under which these goals can be achieved.