

The federal/provincial jurisdictional logjam shows up most graphically in the provision of health and social services to Aboriginal people. Under the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the delivery of these services falls under provincial authority but, because of the cost, provincial governments have generally refused them to status Indians who live on reserve⁸. Consequently, the federal government has made some, but not all, of the services provided to other Canadians available to status Indians on reserve.

In all of this wrangling, both levels of government appear to have forgotten the needs of the people themselves. In this complex and overlapping web of service structures, some people even find themselves falling through the cracks and unequally treated compared to their fellow citizens.

The story of Donna Good Water and her daughter, Little Mountain, illustrates the effect of this squabbling on people's lives. Little Mountain has cerebral palsy. Her mother expressed enormous frustration at the difficulties in gaining access on reserve to respite care and home care—provincial services that are readily available in the neighbouring municipality. Because this woman and her daughter are status Indians, living on reserve, they are not entitled to provincial benefits,

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7. Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, grants to the federal Parliament exclusive jurisdiction over "Indians and lands reserved for Indians." The courts have determined that both status Indians and the Inuit are "Indians" within the meaning of this section. The courts, however, have not yet settled the question of whether or not the Métis are covered by section 91(24).
 8. The provinces generally provide these services to non-status Indians, the Métis and to status Indians off-reserve. There is, however, still some controversy between the federal government and certain provinces over who is responsible for the Inuit and for status Indians migrating from reserves to urban centres.