

government must move to eliminate the effective decrease that the Society has suffered. The recommendation refers only to the CAS because the Committee did not have enough time to gather detailed evidence about the core funding of local community-based groups under the ACAP program in order to know whether they have suffered the same fate. If that is the case the Committee would make the same recommendation concerning the funding of all community-based groups.

**RECOMMENDATION 48:**

The Committee recommends, as a first step, that the core funding for the Canadian AIDS Society be indexed to inflation for the current fiscal year, so that funding for the current fiscal year will be at least equal to that for 1989-1990 in real dollar terms.

The importance of the role of community-based groups in responding to the AIDS crisis cannot be over-emphasized. From the beginning of the crisis they have mobilized to provide education and awareness programs directed to their own members or at the local level. They have also provided much of the care and support, physical and emotional, for those with AIDS/HIV. Their support services include counselling, the provision of home support workers, referrals to professionals, and personal support and friendship.

We have earlier noted in this report that education and awareness programs mounted by community-based groups appear to be the most effective, and should be given more funding. These groups cannot, however, carry out effective prevention programs if their core funding is inadequate or uncertain. The Canadian AIDS Society has pointed to this inadequacy and uncertainty as one of the primary difficulties that these groups face. They do their vital work with the labour of hundreds, perhaps several thousand, volunteers and small numbers of committed staff. They need at least adequate core funding support and some guarantee that it will continue.

The Department of Health and Welfare has done much good work in contributing to the funding of community-based groups and supporting their activities. Some groups may indeed be receiving sufficient support,