

Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Consultation, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 10:12)

In the Auditor General's audit of DIANDs Housing Program, no clear statement of federal responsibility respecting housing was found. This has made it difficult for DIAND to administer the Housing Program effectively. (Submission to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Auditor General of Canada, February 26, 1992, p. 1)

The Métis National Council and the Native Council of Canada did not comment on this particular aspect. For the MNC and the NCC the issue is whether the federal government recognizes any responsibility for their members at all.

The Métis National Council commented that: *there are no special programs from the federal or provincial government in place for Métis people. We don't qualify for all of those aboriginal programs. Even though we're recognized in the Constitution as an aboriginal people, we don't share in the special programs instituted by government for aboriginal peoples.* (Mr. Yvon Dumont, President, Métis National Council, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 18:5)

The Native Council of Canada commented that: *People off reserve are constantly left out... We're dealing with three-quarters of a million aboriginal people out there. . . , our people are grossly misrepresented when it comes to budget concerns. You're dealing with fewer than 300,000 people living on reserves. . . I'm not criticizing the amount of dollars and saying that should be turned over; I think in many cases many of those reserve communities are underfunded as well. In many cases they're strained to their maximum limit.* (Mr. Phil Fraser, Vice-President, Native Council of Canada, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 16:6)

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada made reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

*The funding levels provided to the service agencies responsible for housing in our communities is not sufficient to allow housing conditions in the Inuit homelands to match those of the Canadian population in general—now or in the foreseeable future—no matter how efficient and innovative the delivery agencies and their programs may be. . . I have already mentioned that the United Nations; Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that affordable housing is a fundamental human right. The CMHC's own long-term objectives begin with the following: to help insure that Canadians, regardless of where they live, have access to affordable, suitable, and adequate housing by facilitating the effective operation of housing markets. . . to support an adequate supply of social housing in cases where the market does not provide for Canadians who cannot meet their housing needs on their own. . .* (Submission to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, February 20, 1992, p. 12)

This uncertainty has resulted in a confusing patchwork of federal and provincial programs that are difficult to access. There is a distinct lack of co-ordination between programs and governments.

In northern Quebec, Aboriginal people live side by side, and yet have completely different levels of housing and services. This was aptly illustrated in the communities of Whapmagoostui and Kuujuaarapik, located side by side on James Bay. The Cree, through federal housing programs have homes with basements, and have a piped water system. The Inuit community, a municipality under provincial legislation, on the other hand, has a trucked water system, and has been told by the provincial housing agency that they cannot have basements in their homes.

In Alberta, Mr. Alden Armstrong, Director of Housing in Paddle Prairie commented that he has experienced difficulties accessing programs when he has approached both federal and municipal agencies and says that no one seems to understand the legislation. Mr. Armstrong indicated that he would like to see some