

tradition of working toward social justice through government action. In addition to this, Canadians have traditionally expected their federal government to lead and their provincial governments to follow suit.

Some of the most important elements are already in place to move issues forward into the new decade. Organizations of disabled persons have defined their goals and articulated their needs. From the initial stages of self-help organizations grew the consumer movement of groups of persons with disabilities that has committed service providers, intellectually at least, to the idea that disabled persons have the right and the capacity to identify their own needs and goals. Consumerism has shifted onward to advocacy which is claiming for persons with disabilities the right of full participation in society. During our hearings, we received testimony outlining specific aspects required to ensure participation from a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations.

The Canadian public has demonstrated overwhelming support for achieving these goals. A survey conducted by Environics Research during October 1987 found that a representative national sample of 2013 Canadians supported changes to benefit persons with disabilities. Respondents were asked to indicate the level of their support for legal measures to provide equal access or affirmative action in both the government and the private sector for people who are physically or mentally disabled as well as aboriginal people, visible minorities and women. Support for equal access legislation was greatest for those with physical disabilities and over 90% of Canadians support measures applicable to both the public and private sectors. For women, support lies at 84% followed by native people (79%), people with mental disabilities (79%) and visible minorities (72%). Not only are Canadians willing to support legislated affirmative action but they are prepared to spend money. For example, 70% of Canadians agreed to support a \$50 tax increase if that is what it takes to integrate public transportation.

There are, however, a few areas where the pieces of the puzzle need to be filled in. If decision-makers at all levels of government and in the private sector are to be persuaded to act, the most convincing argument will be that the benefits of moving towards greater economic integration outweigh the economic costs of maintaining the present system. Proposals such as disability tax credits, disability insurance and extending social allowance benefits for expenses related to disability will be costly to implement. It is important, as Robert McInnes of the Canadian Council of Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) told us, that governments realize that they "may benefit financially in the long-term through an initial investment at the start."

In this period, when the government is trying to control its expenditures, we are surprised that Canadian government departments and agencies, as well as organizations of disabled persons, have not approached disability issues from the perspective of costs and benefits. Without an appreciation of these facts of life, we wonder about the relevance and