

## *The Committee's View*

### **Weak Links**

The Committee sees the situation not just as a case of federal departments protecting their fiefdoms, but also as a clear illustration of the ad hoc approach that departments are taking to the needs of people—in this case, Aboriginal people—with disabilities. In our other reports, we have condemned this approach—that is why we called for a national strategy in our 1990 report *A Consensus for Action*. We have also pointed out that policies and programs for people with disabilities have to be integrated—with each other and with all government initiatives. In our most recent report, *As True as Taxes*, for example, we recommended that social, economic and tax policies that deal with persons with disabilities should be linked to remove disincentives to economic participation.

For those considered to have more than one disadvantage, such as Aboriginal people with disabilities, the ad hoc approach has proven to have almost irreversible implications and consequences, despite recommendations that this situation be addressed. Both *Obstacles* and the *Follow-up Report* recognized, and made recommendations about, the lack of co-ordination within the federal government that artificially separates health care issues from other related problems such as inadequate housing, transportation and employment. In turn, this failure to co-ordinate contributes directly to the high incidence of disability

