

and subsidize new housing units; provide rent supplement programs where the government buys into existing dwellings to subsidize apartments; and, provide repair assistance on homes under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, and also under all of the Native housing programs. Between 1986 and 1989, the government assisted more than 200,000 additional core-need households through programs to upgrade substandard dwellings, provide rent-geared-to-income assistance, and create new social housing units. Mr. Redway indicated that while the budget cuts will not affect the moneys for the subsidization of existing dwellings, there will be limitations in terms of new housing units, rent supplements, and residential rehabilitation. Mr. Robert Lajoie, of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, indicated that approximately 36,000 new families would be assisted in 1990.¹³⁸

Mr. Redway made particular mention of the housing problems of Aboriginal Canadians, noting that the government is addressing their needs through programs delivered on reserve, in urban areas, in rural and remote areas, and through the provision of emergency repair assistance. It was noted that since 1986, the federal government has provided assistance to almost 23,000 households under these programs, including about 8,200 dwellings under the Rural and Native Housing Program, of which 50% are targeted to Natives.¹³⁹ Nevertheless, the Assembly of First Nations told the Sub-Committee of the housing needs of the Indian community when it stated:

In 1990 [the Assembly of First Nations] estimated that in order to provide for the housing needs in the Indian community, government would have to set aside \$333 million in that year if it wanted to make sure each family had a home. We have 20,000 units of housing shortfall at the present time, and if government does not increase the housing contribution to the Indian communities, at least 46,000 housing units will be behind in terms of construction in our communities by the year 2000.¹⁴⁰

The Assembly also said that:

(h)opefully, at some point in time, we will have running water and sewer systems in most Indian homes.¹⁴¹

Despite Canada's social housing policy, many needy Canadians are paying in excess of 30% of their income on shelter. Among those who have shelter, the Sub-Committee learned that some housing is of low quality. The Sub-Committee also received testimony regarding the merits of co-operative housing. A representative from End Legislated Poverty told the Sub-Committee:

I got into a housing co-op . . . and that was a big step for me. It gave me a lot more leeway with my budget. Before that we were paying 60% or 70% or more of what was coming in for rent.¹⁴²

As noted earlier, Dr. Maloney spoke to the Sub-Committee about public housing being a risk factor.¹⁴³ The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton also identified living in "ghettoized", low-income housing as one of the primary risk factors associated with children and families coming into contact with social services and health agencies.¹⁴⁴ As noted in the *Ontario Child Health Study*, children living in subsidized housing have higher rates of psychiatric disorders, with 30.4% of such

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 5, 7, 10, 16.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

¹⁴⁰ *Proceedings*, Issue 11, p. 20.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² *Proceedings*, Issue 9, p. 76.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 94.

¹⁴⁴ *Proceedings*, Issue 13, p. 34.