

3. BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS— 'PASSING THE BUCK'

Indian and Inuit people do not understand or appreciate the concept of different government departments. Their own communities are small and unified, and the notion of huge, separate bureaucracies is foreign to their traditions and daily experience. They become confused by a situation in which it takes several major organizations to provide several minor services.

Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped,
Obstacles, February 1981, p. 134

Strategic Shortcomings

Without exception, departmental officials who appeared before the Committee heralded the National Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities as the major federal government effort to address the concerns of Canadians with disabilities. The Strategy, which was announced on 6 September 1991, promises to devote \$158 million until 1996 to the goals of equal access, economic integration and effective participation. Although ten government departments are involved, the Department of the Secretary of State, headed by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Disabled Persons, has the lead role in co-ordinating not only the activities of the Strategy, but also all government operations related to people with disabilities.²