

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada address immediately the health and safety deficiencies of Aboriginal and northern housing. These communities must have indoor water supplies, indoor plumbing, adequate sewage disposal systems, and adequate fire protection services. (Chapter 2)

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada recognize that Aboriginal people have particular cultural and practical housing needs which are not being addressed due to the rigidity of current federal housing programs. Building codes, design requirements, and material and labour specifications must be more flexible in order to permit the type of housing which meets the needs of Aboriginal and northern communities and utilizes local resources. (Chapter 3)

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada recognize that the only way to provide the flexibility that Aboriginal people need to ensure the delivery of the kind of housing best suited to their particular needs is through self-government for Aboriginal people. (Chapter 3)

Recommendation 10

As an interim measure, pending the full transfer of housing to Aboriginal people, CMHC should ensure that Aboriginal people are fully involved in all policy and program decisions. Program guidelines should ensure that the maximum possible flexibility is provided to Aboriginal organizations participating in those programs. Aboriginal organizations formed under the Urban Native Non-Profit Housing Programs should have greater flexibility to manage day to day operations as well as the disposition and acquisition of capital assets. There should be more aboriginal organizations involved in the delivery of programs like Rural and Native Housing to Aboriginal communities. Furthermore, these organizations should be given greater responsibilities than is presently the case. (Chapter 4)

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada provide greater opportunities for homeownership on-reserve, off-reserve, and in the North through the development and expansion of homeownership programs, and the encouragement of innovative solutions aimed at addressing impediments faced by Aboriginal people to homeownership. Both on and off reserves, financial institutions controlled by aboriginal and/or northern people could facilitate access to financing. (Chapter 4)

Recommendation 12

The Government of Canada and the provinces and territories, together with Aboriginal people should make the resolution of jurisdictional difficulties and duplication in housing programs a priority in addressing housing needs in Aboriginal communities. (Chapter 4)