

The federal government must begin now to plan for the period after the mandate of the current program expires. Those engaged in research, or involved as volunteers on the street, must be assured of future funding and support. The role of the Federal Centre for AIDS in particular must be guaranteed so that the effectiveness of the work it does now will not be hampered by uncertainty about its future. If a change in priorities or a re-organization of structures anywhere in the federal response to AIDS is contemplated, the work of planning must be done now so that the new programs will be ready when they are needed. Prior planning is also necessary where programs and structures will be ongoing. There must be no break in the continuity of the fight against AIDS. Major program funding approval often takes up to two years to move through the bureaucratic and political processes. That work must begin now.

**RECOMMENDATION 47:**

The Committee recommends that the Department of National Health and Welfare begin immediately the development of program and funding proposals for the period after March 31, 1993, when the current Federal AIDS Program, including the Federal Centre for AIDS and other funding commitments, will expire.

The core funding for the Canadian AIDS Society has not been increased for the current fiscal year to take account of inflation. That means that in real dollar terms the Society, which is the national umbrella organization for the community groups at work across the country, will receive less during this year than it did last year. The Society opened its office in Ottawa only recently, in September of 1988, to enable it to perform an advocacy role on national issues on behalf of its members. As a National Strategy is developed and implemented, the need for input at the national level of the expertise and perspectives of the community-based sector will become even more important. The federal government must recognize the thousands of community volunteers across Canada as equal partners in the struggle, and confirm this recognition by providing adequate funding to support their work.

The Committee is also recommending that the core funding of the Canadian AIDS Society be increased, but as an immediate step the