

Treasury Board and the Federal-Provincial Relations Office) to establish and to monitor an integrated approach to policy and program formulation and development for Aboriginal people with disabilities. This working group should ensure that individual federal departments and agencies collect and use up-to-date and appropriate data in devising policies and programs for Aboriginal people with disabilities.

Where Does the Buck Stop?

The problems of fragmented programs and the lack of detailed data to establish policy in the area of Aboriginal disability stem from the failure of the federal government to set up an effective overall mechanism to ensure ongoing and consistent monitoring, advocacy and co-ordination for disabled persons in relation to all federal policies, legislation and regulations. In our previous report, *A Consensus for Action*, this Committee suggested, but did not recommend, that a national strategy on disability issues should include a centralized structure that permitted co-ordination and accountability. According to our analysis:

The history of the recommendations of parliamentary committees concerned with disability have shown us that what is needed now is more muscle at the centre of government...

A voice at the centre is imperative because, ...disabled persons' units, directorates and secretariats appear to function on the margin of their respective departments. In short, they are not effectively integrated into the central decision-making process of government...

We therefore urge the immediate appointment of a ranking official of the PCO to assume responsibility for disabled persons and to perform the relevant ongoing functions related to cabinet activities. This official