

ONE



DIRECT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WHO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIVES TO CONSULT WITH NATIVE PEOPLE BEFORE ACTING.

In the OBSTACLES report the Special Committee set out 130 recommendations by which the Federal Government could improve the opportunities in Canada for disabled persons to help themselves. Of these recommendations, ten were specifically focused on the needs of disabled Native persons. The Members of the Special Committee now want to emphasize that the Federal departments which will act upon these recommendations—and the further recommendations that are contained in this follow-up report—should consult *fully* with Native representatives, and with each other before doing so.



No Consultation: Native persons in every part of Canada believe that for over a century they share the common experience of *not being*

consulted about Federal Government policies and programs which have had a major, and sometimes devastating impact upon their communities.

Fear and Mistrust: It is hard to calculate the waste of money, professional skill, and goodwill that bureaucratic ignorance and indifference have caused, but it has been considerable. The Special Committee quickly discovered in its attempt to identify the needs and concerns of disabled Native persons, that the biggest obstacle which frequently prevents any useful contribution by the Federal Government in assisting these people, lies in the fear and mistrust that many of them have of bureaucratic attitudes and procedures.

Consultation First: The Committee recognizes that there are dedicated and skilled individuals in the public service whose actions and attitudes do not fit the description above. But the overall picture of Federal relations with the Native population reveals far too many instances of little or no consultation. At the base of attempts to help disabled persons

in general, is the issue of self-determination. The Special Committee, therefore, is concerned that the Federal Government implement programs for disabled Native Canadians only after there has been consultation with representatives of Native communities, so that this principle of self-determination is given practical support.

There is also considerable evidence to show that the following Federal departments do not consult among themselves in a systematic fashion when implementing policies and programs which affect Native people:

- Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
- Canada Employment and Immigration Commission
- Department of the Secretary of State
- Treasury Board
- Public Service Commission
- Department of National Health and Welfare
- Department of Regional Economic Expansion
- Department of Justice