

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

### AN AGENDA FOR ALL CANADIANS IN THE 1990's

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs has completed a series of hearings intended to gauge the priorities and key policy concerns of aboriginal people at a national level. In the course of this inquiry, submissions were received from a number of national aboriginal organizations as well as the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Human Rights Commission. The Assembly of First Nations, the Native Council of Canada, the Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Indigenous Bar Association appeared before the Committee in late 1989. This report describes the results of this brief yet broad ranging inquiry and the Committee's own research. The submissions touched on almost every aspect of life. This reflects the fact that the quality of life for most aboriginal people in Canada still remains far from satisfactory and that some very important political, legal and constitutional issues remain unresolved.

By reporting in this way, the Committee wishes to share with Parliament and all Canadians what it has learned about current concerns of aboriginal peoples in Canada and hopes to convey a sense of the depth and breadth of these concerns. This report is also intended to provide an introductory overview of aboriginal affairs matters at the national level.

As a result of this preliminary series of hearings, the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs has concluded that the 1990's should be a decade devoted to achieving substantial movement on all fronts in respect to aboriginal affairs. The Committee urgently wishes to draw the attention of Parliament to this long yet not exhaustive list of current issues and recommends that particular attention be devoted to the issue of self-government over the next decade. The Committee's concern with self-government matters is not intended in any way to direct attention away from any First Ministers Conferences (FMC) or the participation of national organizations in the FMC process.

The Committee encourages Canadians, and particularly interested parties such as Parliament and the Legislatures, through