

The Committee is supportive of the elder abuse partnerships among federal departments and also among other levels of government. Members are aware that the provincial governments have the major responsibility for delivering health, social, justice and education services. However, through equalization payments, block funding and cost-sharing agreements, the federal government plays a role in all these areas. In addition, responsibility for criminal law and procedure and for service delivery to particular groups such as on-reserve aboriginal people and military personnel falls within the federal jurisdiction.

The Committee recognizes that the departments participating in the Initiative have facilitated information sharing on abuse of the elderly among various levels of government. In addition, efforts to ensure compatibility with the needs of different communities across the country while enhancing the national perspective are positive signs. The Committee feels that one necessary ingredient to be added to these partnership efforts is that of seniors.

The Committee recommends:

- 8. That the federal government, through its Interdepartmental Steering Committee set up to coordinate the Family Violence Prevention Initiative, make public the activities related to abuse of the elderly undertaken to date by all departments including the amount of money allocated to each.**
- 9. That the federal government continue to promote partnerships among federal departments, among different levels of government and within the community to address the abuse of older Canadians and that these partnership efforts be supported with appropriate levels of funding.**
- 10. That the federal government ensure that older Canadians representing both sexes and of different ages and ethnicity serve as members of advisory committees.**

V EDUCATION

All witnesses referred to the need for increased public awareness about abuse of older Canadians. Education of young and old, of male and female, of professional and layperson was seen as essential. Berdie Darrah of One Voice