

- Within the federal government, the Ministry of State should also be responsible for funding First Nation governments for services they would provide, for economic development, and for correcting deficiencies in community infrastructure.
- A new agency should be set up to carry out the proposed new claims settlement policy.
- A panel, jointly appointed by the federal government and designated representatives of Indian First Nations, should be formed to consider requests for recognition of Indian First Nation governments. Recognition would be formally confirmed by the Governor General.
- Responsibility for the trust funds should pass from the Minister of Indian Affairs to Indian First Nations. Capital funds could be managed by Indian financial institutions or private trust companies.
- A small secretariat could facilitate negotiations between the federal government and Indian First Nations.
- A special commission responsible to Parliament should monitor complaints and report annually on the state of the relationship between Indian First Nations and the federal government.
- The federal government should contribute to the support of an office to assist Indian First Nations to protect their rights and interests through effective advocacy.
- A new tribunal should be put in place to adjudicate disputes between Indian First Nation governments and other governments.

The Committee has also recommended new legislation that would put Indian First Nations in a position to control their own affairs through recognized governments. The result would be the demise of the programs relating to Indian people of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The program delivery functions of the Department and the extensive monitoring requirements linked to them would disappear as First Nation governments exercised responsibility for these services. Indian programs of other departments would be similarly affected. Residual responsibilities of the Department would be assumed by the new Ministry of State for Indian First Nations Relations and by the various small, specialized agencies that the Committee is proposing.

**55. As Indian First Nation governments exercise control over their own affairs, the Committee strongly recommends that the programs of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development relating to Indian people be phased out. This process should be completed within five years. This recommendation does not affect the Department's mandate for northern development.**

### **Parliament and the Indian Peoples**

The Indian First Nation governments that the Committee has recommended be established would relate to the federal government on a government-to-government basis. Under