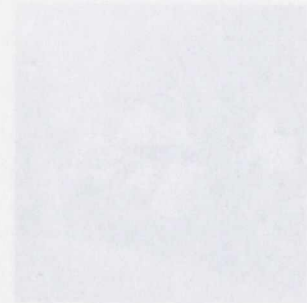


RECOMMENDATION

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RECOMMENDATION

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Necessary: Few of these projects have been evaluated, and some have been in existence only a short time. Others, such as the Native Employment Program, can hardly be classed as successful based on available statistics. Nevertheless, the obvious and compelling need for some sort of mechanism to introduce other disadvantaged visible minorities, and especially visible minority women, to the labour force skills necessary for their integration into the mainstream of Canadian society, forces the Committee to conclude that these programs, despite their uneven or untested record, are a necessary first step, and that they can be successfully refined and adapted to accomplish their objectives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Employment and Immigration Canada should conduct an immediate evaluation of its Employment Development Programs and refine them accordingly; should expand such programs to include all visible minorities as a target group in their affirmative action component; and should pay particular attention to visible minority women, who are doubly disadvantaged.

ACCOMMODATE PROGRAMS TO UNIQUE ETHNOCULTURAL GROUPS

Communal: The Hutterite Community of Manitoba appeared before the Committee to outline some of the problems which they encounter in their dealings with the federal government because of their communal style of living. A basic concern was that they are frequently ineligible for government programs or subsidies because the various rules or regulations are geared to individuals and do not recognize collective living arrangements. For some grants, they are allowed only communal applications, while for others they are deemed ineligible. For example, in the recent past, the Hutterites have been deemed ineligible to apply for Farm Credit Corporation mortgages, Registered Home Ownership Plans and urea formaldehyde grants, because of their communal status. This status has not, however, prevented them from paying income tax.

Sensitivity: The Committee sympathizes with the concerns raised by the Hutterite witnesses, but also recognizes that many of these concerns are specific to this particular group. Nevertheless, the Committee notes that federal officials were able to exercise discretion and negotiate a compromise with the colonies concerning the Canada Pension Plan. It does not appear unreasonable to conclude that similar accommodation might be possible in other areas if sufficient sensitivity to minority concerns were brought to bear on the problem.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Federal Government should, when requested, and when the integrity of the program will not be compromised, accommodate its programs to the needs of unique ethnocultural groups.