

control over schools is given to aboriginal communities. There was also a fear that the knowledge of the existence of deferrals and the continuing possibility of them occurring under the new policy may discourage students from applying and thus break the fairly recent momentum of increased participation in post-secondary programs.

In their appearance before the Committee, a group of students made the following observations regarding the treatment of the program budget, within the context of the total expenditures of the Department in the fiscal year 1987-88 (Issue 3:10):

Public Accounts 1987-88 for Indian Affairs and Northern Development reveal that in addition to the main estimates of \$483,132,000 there were supplementary estimates of \$8,303,200 and a transfer within the ministry of \$12,456,428, all this in a year when 899 eligible students were denied funding in the name of fixed annual budgetary control.

One of the documents submitted by the Native Women's Association of Canada, "Ottawa's Assault On First Nations Education", stated at p.4:

In 1984, PMA Consulting Group did a study for the Department of Indian Affairs, which was noted by the Neilsen Task Force. The PMA study indicated that the university participation rate of native students increased from 1% to 12% over 20 years. The national average is about 20%. According to the consultants, a three fold increase in spending levels is needed to increase native students enrollment and success to the national average. In terms of 1984 dollars, the implication is that the budget allocation should be about \$197 million (factoring in the C-31 population since 1984).

The Shibogama Tribal Council stated in their submission (at p.2):

The Minister's statement that "the program will be maintained at its current funding level of close to 130 million..." is unrealistic. In spite of the Federal Government's previously stated objective to achieve parity between post-secondary education of Native and non-native population groups, there remains a very significant gap. The proposed "capping" of funding in this regard will significantly widen the gap.

The Union of New Brunswick Indians stated in their appearance before the Committee (Issue 9:7):

The costs of providing post-secondary education in this country are expensive but are far less in the long run compared to what it would cost to maintain an individual on government assistance for the rest of their lives . . . .

The budget allocated for Indian post-secondary education will not be enough to handle the upcoming case load of 17,000 Indian students. In our estimation, it will cost approximately \$10,000 per year per student. With this figure you will require at least \$170 million, plus another \$4.6 million to maintain the Indian college at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and additional dollars to provide incentives mentioned