

- addressing, in a comprehensive manner, problems such as the lack of bonding for Aboriginal controlled corporations
- the collection of data on housing conditions
- the allocation of federal funding
- economic development
- program delivery
- liaising with other departments regarding input into policy and program decisions such as skill development training programs, with a view to eventual transfer of further responsibility from the federal agencies now delivering these other programs to the aboriginal organizations. (Chapter 4)

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that it must be clarified whether the housing responsibility of the Government of Canada for status and non-status Indians living on and off-reserve, Inuit and Métis people is a matter of social policy, or based on treaty and Aboriginal rights. (Chapter 4)

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada provide the necessary funding to meet the housing needs of all Aboriginal and northern people living on-reserves, off-reserves, and in the North. Not only is there a backlog of new units, but there is a lack of funding to renovate existing units. Particular attention should be paid to the special housing needs of victims of abuse, seniors, the homeless, and the disabled. On-reserve, particular issues which must be addressed include the existing backlog of approximately 11,000 housing units and the additional demand for housing created because of Bill C-31. In the North, there is a critical shortage of over 3,500 units which necessitates a greater need for resources. As a first and crucial step towards preventing that backlog from worsening the federal government should immediately reinstate CMHC funding for the Northwest Territories to at least 1991 levels. (Chapter 3)

Recommendation 6

The Government of Canada, pending further structural change to the way housing is delivered, immediately review the Ministerial Guarantee guidelines and process in order to resolve outstanding problems, and to ensure that Ministerial Guarantees are provided to First Nations in a timely and efficient manner. The Committee recommends that the government eliminate the requirement which calls for mortgage insurance as well as a Ministerial Guarantee. The government should discuss with financial institutions the possibility of obtaining preferred interest rates on any loans made to First Nations which are guaranteed by the Minister. (Chapter 4)