

courses to instruct native and northern trappers in the use of advanced trapping techniques which can then be taught to other trappers in their home communities.

Taking on the chairmanship of the new Interdepartmental Committee and lead responsibility for the federal government's domestic pro-fur activities may tax the financial and personnel resources of DIAND. The present staff to carry out DIAND's role in the three-year humane trapping program consists of two full-time and two part-time employees with a budget of \$550,000 for both 1985-86 and 1987-88. The group's present responsibilities relate to funding requests, trapper education, aboriginal advocacy, government coordination, data gathering and public relations.

In addition, DIAND informed the Committee that during 1986-87 it will be investigating opportunities for extending native and northern participation in other sectors of the fur industry.

The department is also acutely aware of the lack of accurate data on the number, activities and economic contribution of aboriginal trappers. It has approached aboriginal organizations to determine their interest in conducting a survey to collect such information. If the Committee's recommendations are adopted, the proposed Interdepartmental Committee on the Fur Issue would be in a position to finance this activity.

The Committee has already made a recommendation on the need for each department on the Interdepartmental Committee to allocate sufficient personnel to allow the body to function efficiently. In the case of DIAND, there should also be sufficient personnel and financial resources to carry out the other functions itemized.

The Committee recommends that:

33. **The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development designate personnel and financial resources in order to carry out its mandate to take lead responsibility for the federal government's domestic pro-fur activities.**

The Department of External Affairs

The Department of External Affairs is responsible for fostering Canada's international image and protecting Canadian international trade. In the present fur debate, as was the case with sealing, the department has not always found these responsibilities compatible. Moreover implementation of these responsibilities is fragmented; although several people each handle some aspect of the fur issue, there is no individual within the department in Ottawa who works solely on this matter.

Officers in overseas posts have been instructed to monitor the international situation and to supply information on trapping in response to serious requests. They have also been instructed to exercise caution in handling the issue so as to avoid giving it undue prominence and thereby making Canada a focus of controversy.

According to a brief presented to the Committee, External Affairs considers it would be inappropriate for the government to enter directly into international public debate on the fur issue, believing that the fur industry should speak on its own behalf. During the hearings this department was widely criticized for its reluctance to develop any public profile abroad and for its unwillingness to acknowledge the potential effects of the anti-trapping campaign.

In the early days of the counter protest in 1984, this departmental reluctance had a major influence on the leading aboriginal organization on the international scene. Indigenous Survival International, in its testimony before the Committee, cited a case in which travel abroad had had to be cancelled because the department had withdrawn funding at the last moment. ISI maintained that this