

The Committee recommends:

19. That the federal government, in consultation with other levels of government, continue to provide funding support for existing services for the elderly and that such services be adapted to address abuse of the elderly.
20. That the federal government provide research money to establish pilot projects on community based alternatives to institutional care for the elderly.
21. That the federal government, in consultation with other levels of government, provide appropriate levels of funding for respite care, day care and other services supportive of informal caregivers of the elderly.
22. That the federal government consider methods of providing payment to family members who care for elderly relatives.

B. Advocacy Services

Several witnesses called for specialized services comprised of advocates who would stand up for seniors. These advocacy services were to give seniors support in pursuing legal or social resolutions to the abusive situation. Michel Couture argued that: "...we have to show abusers, by our actions, that we will not tolerate this type of violence and that we will get involved in what they call their business, in order to ensure that seniors can freely exercise their rights."⁸³ He felt that: "Given support, older persons will be able to defend their rights. You can't ask them to do more than we are capable of doing."⁸⁴

In Montreal, the *Centre des aînés et des aînées* is attempting to bridge the gap between social, legal and medical services and the elderly. As explained by Michel Couture, the Centre's role is "to help victims of elder abuse, to act for them and with

⁸³ Couture, 4:24.

⁸⁴ Couture, 4:30.