

research proposals when the most recent funding announcement was made: none could be considered because the funding had already been allocated. The Committee is confident that those organizations which have dedicated their time and energy to fighting the AIDS epidemic will find ample ways to use new money effectively.

The Committee has heard from those best qualified to make judgements about the overall adequacy of federal government funding on AIDS - the Canadian AIDS Society, with its extensive practical experience, and the Royal Society of Canada and the National Advisory Committee on AIDS, which together comprise the very best expertise on the subject. The advice which we have heard is that of the best experts that the Minister of Health and Welfare could assemble to advise him as to what must be done. The federal government will ignore their advice at Canada's peril.

RECOMMENDATION 46:

The Committee recommends, in the strongest terms possible, that the Minister of National Health and Welfare urgently undertake a review of the overall funding commitment of the federal government to the struggle against AIDS and HIV infection, with a view to increasing it to a level which is adequate to meet the increasing challenge which must be faced. The Committee further recommends that the federal government take immediate steps to increase substantially the funding available for the current Federal AIDS Program.

The current Federal AIDS Program projects funding and program mandates through to the end of the 1993 fiscal year, less than three years from now. The AIDS crisis will not have gone away by 1993. It can only be hoped that by then we will have made significant progress in curbing the spread of the disease, but no one familiar with the present state of the epidemic expects that we can look forward to ceasing or even slackening our efforts in three years time. The "bulge" of AIDS cases, of which we spoke in the introduction to this report, may be starting to appear by that point, and the costs of treatment, care and support may be consuming ever larger resources. Funding and program needs for research, education and prevention will nonetheless remain priorities for some years into the future.