

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: The Committee's conclusions and recommendations are grouped by subject. They do not appear here in the same order as they appear in the text of the report, but the page number following each conclusion or recommendation indicates where it can be found in the text.

Throughout the report the Committee has used the term *Indian First Nations* to describe the entities that would be exercising self-government. Although the terms of reference refer to "Indian self-government", the majority of witnesses referred to themselves as members of First Nations. In order to familiarize the general public with the term, the Committee decided to use *Indian First Nations* in this report.

Self-Government

The Committee recommends that the federal government establish a new relationship with Indian First Nations and that an essential element of this relationship be recognition of Indian self-government. (p. 41)

The Committee recommends that the right of Indian peoples to self-government be explicitly stated and entrenched in the Constitution of Canada. The surest way to achieve permanent and fundamental change in the relationship between Indian peoples and the federal government is by means of a constitutional amendment. Indian First Nation governments would form a distinct order of government in Canada, with their jurisdiction defined. (p. 44)

While the Committee has concluded that the surest way to lasting change is through constitutional amendments, it encourages both the federal government and Indian First Nations to pursue all processes leading to the implementation of self-government, including the bilateral process. (p. 46)