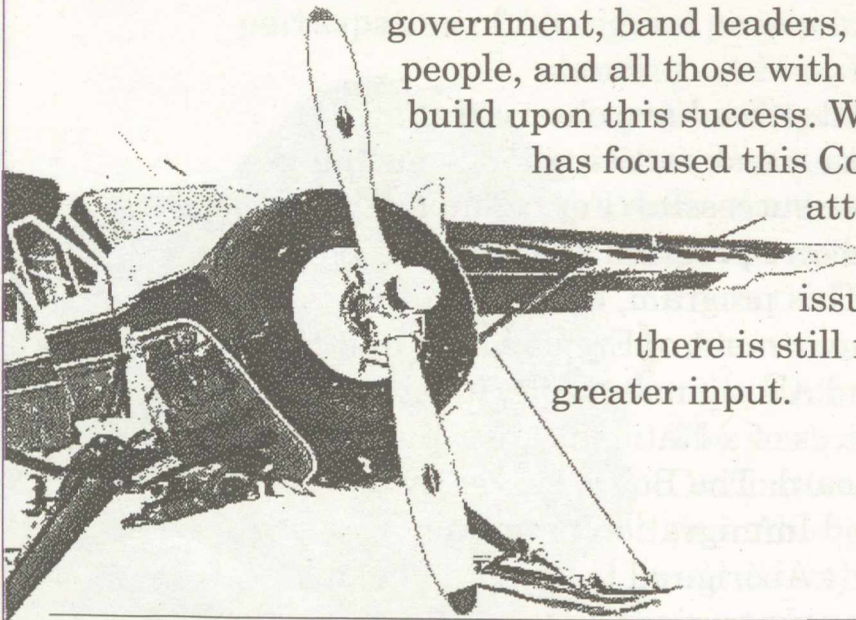


Recently, NAND successfully lobbied the National Aboriginal Management Board to make disability issues one of its priorities and to involve disabled consumers in consultation and in the implementation of programs. As a result, on 11 January 1993, the Minister of Employment and Immigration announced that his Department would provide \$100,000 from its allocation under the National Strategy to assess the training and employment needs of Aboriginal people with disabilities. NAND will run this six month project and will identify and examine successful employment initiatives and recommend ways to eliminate barriers to training and work. According to James (Smokey) Tomkins, the Executive Director of NAND, "this decision is the result of unprecedented cooperation and understanding between Employment and Immigration Canada, the six major national Aboriginal organizations and the National Aboriginal Network on Disability."¹⁰

This Committee encourages the federal government, band leaders, Aboriginal people, and all those with disabilities to build upon this success. While NAND has focused this Committee's attention on the important issues, we believe there is still room for greater input.



10. Government of Canada News Release, "National Aboriginal Organization receives funding to assess employment needs of Aboriginal people with disabilities," 11 January 1993.