

## **RECOMMENDATION**

14. That the mandate of the Court Challenges Program be altered to allow the program to sponsor national meetings of, and consultations with, its client groups by inserting "national meetings" under the list of approved budgetary expenses in the contribution agreement. These funds should be tied specifically to the exchange of information regarding litigation that falls within the mandate of the Court Challenges Program. If this entails an increase in the administrative budget of the Court Challenges Program, these funds should be provided from the appropriate programs in the Department of the Secretary of State that carry out duplicate funding of information activities.

## **RESPONSE**

The Court Challenges Program's objective is the clarification of linguistic and equality rights under the Constitution. The Government of Canada wishes to preserve the Program's initial scope and structure and avoid the overlapping of programs.

However, the Government of Canada recognizes the benefits that interest groups derive in exchanging information regarding litigation that falls within the mandate of the Court Challenges Program. It will consider providing funding for such activities through existing programs.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

15. That a Court Challenges Funding Panel Appointments Committee be established, such committee to consist of nominees of each of the three major political parties and the chairperson of the funding panel for which an appointment is being considered; and that this committee be entitled to recommend funding panel appointments to the Secretary of State whenever agreement is achieved among 3 of its 4 members.

## **RESPONSE**

The Government of Canada supports an appointment process which is open to suggestions from a wide variety of groups and organizations. As the Standing Committee's report did not find any significant problems with the current system, the Government is committed to maintaining the existing appointment process.