

surpluses in program funds by July 31, 1989 and November 1, 1989. It appears that redistribution involves reallocating these funds to the entire population of student deferrals, both "regular" and "C-31".

Since 1987, the government has had a policy of restricting the budget to the amount allocated under the Main Estimates, rather than seeking further funds from Parliament through Supplementary Estimates, as was the practice in previous years when student demand exceeded the original budget. The Department has reported that in the 1987-88 fiscal year the applications of 899 students were deferred for consideration for the following year, as a result of the budget being exhausted. In the 1988-89 year, there were 243 deferrals.

The Minister has stated that the program must stay within its annual budget but that with proper data, forecasting of student demand would be more accurate and deferrals could be eliminated altogether. While the Minister said he could not guarantee there would be no deferrals in the 1989-90 year, he hoped to be able to report a continuing decrease in their rate (Issue 2:14-15). The Minister elaborated further on these remarks in his second appearance on June 1, 1989:

The question of possible deferrals, which we discussed at some length during our meeting in April, also arose during several presentations made by Indian groups. I must reiterate that we have yet no way of knowing whether or not assistance to some Indian students will have to be deferred for a term or a year. Only when students have received their acceptances from post-secondary institutions and have applied for assistance will we have an accurate idea of what the situation will be for the 1989-90 academic year. This information should be made available by mid-July.

. . . . There has to be an exchange of data in order to have a common joint data base that will permit us to pre-determine the needs and the means in order to meet the demand with respect to post-secondary education. That is where my commitment flows, to go on a yearly basis to Treasury board and obtain the appropriate allocations to meet the need for post-secondary education.

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I already indicated in the House on a number of occasions and when I was last here that with the appropriate data I will go to Treasury Board and Cabinet and seek the necessary funds to meet the demand on on a year-to-year basis as this budget functions; and I reiterate this commitment that I will be doing that.

(Issue 10:6,7,14 and 16)

Several aboriginal groups have indicated their concern that the Department has failed to adequately account for student demand based on the 1985 *Indian Act* amendments, the higher birth rate among aboriginal people and increased demands based on increased secondary graduation rates as