

“Employment is the most urgent need of disabled persons in Canada. At the present time, however, Federal employment policies are formulated without any solid knowledge about disabled persons.”

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ESTABLISH SENIOR ADVISORS TO MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT ON NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Federal Government direct the Minister of Employment and Immigration to establish, within that Department, a group at the most senior level that would be responsible for the development and strategic implementation of policies and programs aimed at the employment of the hand-icapped.

COMMITTED

Guarantee: The Minister of Employment and Immigration told the Committee that he cannot state the exact mechanism but “I can guarantee there will be one”. Based on the Minister’s statement, the Committee believes there is a firm commitment to create a group of senior advisors. An organizational review at the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) is presently underway, and this review will study the best way to implement the recommendation.

Workplan: CEIC has a proposed workplan which includes establishing a directorate for disabled persons within the Commission. This directorate

would coordinate departmental programs for disabled persons, monitor the effectiveness of these programs, act as an advocate in departmental planning, plus carry out a research function, including the development of a data base on disabled persons.

Stress Importance: Consumer groups have responded to this recommendation by stressing the importance of consultation between consumer groups and this proposed group of senior advisors within the Commission. Employment was identified as a key issue in the hearings throughout Canada. The Committee urges the Minister to act quickly in completing the organizational review and in initiating changes as a result of the review. There has been sufficient time to complete the review, now is the time for action.