

required to best meet the special needs of the disabled.

The most basic of needs is the guarantee and protection of civil rights. The Canadian Human Rights Act offers some protection to disabled persons with respect to employment. The Government is now committed to extending this right to all facilities and services.

Concerning better employment opportunities for the disabled, the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission is developing a strategy for employment of the disabled in the private sector. An Advisory Committee composed of disabled persons advises the Treasury Board on policies related to the hiring of the handicapped. In addition, the Adult Occupational Training Act is being amended, and work incentives and their relation to employment of disadvantaged groups are presently under federal-provincial review.

Adequate income is another priority. Many disabled persons must rely on transfer payments to make ends meet, and there is room for improvement. A Parliamentary Committee on Pensions is considering disability provisions of private and public plans in terms of adequacy.

Attitudes towards the disabled are often their greatest handicap. Canada has tackled this problem in a unique way with a national multi-media advertising campaign aimed at increasing public awareness and sensitivity to the problems and needs of the disabled. This has aroused interest internationally, and has been discussed at a recent UNESCO Round Table. The campaign is an excellent example of co-operation between the Federal Government and the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled (CRCDD), a non-governmental organization.

Integration of the disabled implies providing access to the community. While many physical barriers still exist, the Canadian Government has adopted a policy on physical accessibility with regard to federal public buildings. 1983 is the target date for completion of the program to make federal public buildings accessible to the disabled.

Access to the community also means having available adequate transportation. A federal Advisory Committee on Transportation for the Handicapped has recently been established to advise the Minister of Transport on the needs of the handicapped, and the policies required to meet them. You will be interested to know that I have just come from a Conference in Ottawa, organized by Canada's consumer group, The Coalition of Provincial Organizations of the Handicapped (COPOH). The theme of the Conference is Transportation for the Disabled. There has been so much public interest in the hearings that they have been extended a day.

Technology for the handicapped has a high profile in Canada's National Research Council. The NRC has established a rehabilitation technology unit to provide support for product development by establishing the clinical and economic feasibility of a product as well as encouraging industrial participation. The NRC is also involved in

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