

In spite of the considerable allocations from 11 federal departments, we recognize that Aboriginal people in Canada are generally among the most disadvantaged Canadians. This government remains committed to seeing that this disparity is overcome.

I would now like to respond to some of the specific concerns raised by the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada.

#### Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

The CMHC allocates funding to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation which in turn provides public housing for all Aboriginal people in the NWT. The federal government has provided, via CMHC, subsidies in excess of half a billion dollars over the past 10 years.

It is important to note that federal transfer payments to the Provinces and formula funding arrangements to the Territories remain untouched. In fact, DIAND's formula financing to the NWT increased from \$822 million in 1992-93 to \$881 million in 1993-94.

My colleague responsible for CMHC, the Honourable Elmer Mackay, has agreed to maintain the Northwest Territories allocation for 1993 at the previous level of 6.44% of the national housing budget. Commencing in 1994, there will be no new allocations to the provinces or territories but existing commitments now in place for housing will continue.

#### Secretary of State

You raised concerns with Secretary of State's decreases to your funding.

The Department of the Secretary of State, as all other federal departments, has had to restructure their resources. I understand that the recent budget has had an impact on support provided to the communications and cultural services in your communities. I am convinced, however, that through creative solutions, the Inuit broadcasters and their communications societies will be able to adjust their programs to these new financial constraints.

For example, I read with great interest in The Gazette of May 12, 1993 about a Native Friendship Centre in Montreal that began their own fundraising campaign to help finance a larger building to meet the growing needs of their clientele. This approach is constructive and one that serves as a fine example to us all.