

“Ultimately, the problems that disabled Indian and Inuit persons face can be solved in significant ways only when their local governments are able to take on greater responsibility for community affairs, including the special needs of disabled persons.”

FOLLOW-UP

ELEVEN

DIRECT DIAND TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE MANAGEMENT TRAINING, INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN-INUIT COMMUNITIES

UNDER CONSIDERATION

Responsibility: The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) recognizes that the problems faced by Indian people and the Inuit can be solved only when local governments are able to take on greater responsibility and authority for community affairs. DIAND has placed a high priority on its Band Training Program (program to promote Band self-government). The Committee urges DIAND to place an even higher priority on management training programs.

Feasibility: The Minister of Indian Affairs told the Committee: “I am asking my officials to look into the



feasibility of your specific recommendation, namely, the development of a comprehensive inventory of services.”

Greater Autonomy: The Committee believes that information about technical and financial resources is critical, if communities are to assume greater autonomy and provide effective local government. The needs of the disabled in Indian and Inuit communities can only be addressed in a responsible manner if the community leaders are aware of and can access all available assistance. The Committee, therefore, urges DIAND to get on with the development of some kind of Community Assistance Resource Program, as originally recommended.