

RECOMMENDATION

13. That the government consider how to provide funds to establish one or more legal resource centres to serve minority language, equality seeking and aboriginal groups. This funding could come from the appropriate programs in the Department of the Secretary of State and the Department of Justice. Once the centre is established with appropriate data bases of case law, etc., it could assist in, among other things, legal research and case development for successful applicants to the Court Challenges Program. It could recover part of its expenses by charging fees for its services.

RESPONSE

The Government of Canada recognizes the value of funding legal research and has done so in the past by funding such projects, under the auspices of the Human Rights Law Fund of the Department of Justice and the Human Rights Program of the Department of the Secretary of State. Numerous research projects funded under these programs have been conducted by university researchers as well as non-governmental organizations like the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and the Canadian Federation of Rights and Liberties. Law faculties have also received funding in order to develop computerized research capabilities accessible electronically across Canada.

Plus, there are other sources of government funding available for legal research. Interest groups may apply for funding to these programs if they want to conduct research not related to specific cases.