

about here is a new reform. We are going to have to invert the pyramid whereby the state provides, and have a system whereby benefits flow from locally elected officials.¹²⁸

Community involvement was also supported by the Focus-on-Futures Schools Advisory Committee of the Ottawa Board of Education, which suggested to the Sub-Committee that:

funds be made directly available to community organizations linked to schools to provide breakfast programs to children in low-income communities.¹²⁹

Finally, co-operation between various levels of government and sectors was also seen as important. The Conseil régional de la santé et des services sociaux de l'Outaouais told the Sub-Committee that:

decisions must not be made by a single level of government but must involve the various sectors. . . . We require a more comprehensive policy involving the various areas of government activity. . . . We do not approach the issue by trying to determine what comes under the federal government and what comes under the provincial government. The effects are all pervasive.¹³⁰

Ms. Zanana Akande, the then Minister of Community and Social Services for Ontario, suggested that:

The federal and provincial governments must work together to address child poverty. Addressing child poverty will require a full partnership and co-operative efforts involving the federal and provincial governments.¹³¹

In speaking to the Sub-Committee about the Senate report entitled *Child Poverty and Adult Social Problems*, Senator Lorna Marsden noted the significant social, human and economic costs associated with child poverty, and the importance of ameliorating child poverty through programs at an early stage. She noted that:

(i) in the long run, the costs associated with adult social problems are likely to exact a much higher price in both human and economic terms than those costs associated with effective programs to reduce child poverty.¹³²

The Sub-Committee also recognizes the merits of primary prevention, early intervention and similar programs, and the efforts of food banks and other community supports. The Sub-Committee recommends that:

A10 the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments target funds for preschool nursery programs serving high-risk communities. These programs could be similar to the Perry Preschool Program or other models in which the educational and health status of children would be enhanced, and parental support and capability improved.

A11 the Federal Government urge Provincial and Territorial Governments, through Boards of Education and in conjunction with community volunteers, to promote nutritionally-balanced breakfast, lunch and snack programs in schools throughout Canada.

¹²⁸ *Proceedings*, Issue 10, p. 23.

¹²⁹ *Proceedings*, Issue 9, p. 148.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 79.

¹³² *Proceedings*, Issue 5, p. 5.