

Another issue raised was the need for an adequate data base to assess post-secondary education needs and the operation of the program. There was a consensus on the need to develop or compile adequate data on the level of student demand in a given year and in sufficient time to plan an adequate budget. There was some controversy however over the kind of information that should be gathered to monitor graduation rates.

THE PROGRAM BUDGET

In his first appearance the Minister brought the following information regarding the program budget to the attention of the Committee:

Everyone knows that there are not unlimited funds for any form of government expenditure. Nevertheless, the Indian and Inuit Post-Secondary Assistance Program grew from \$4.2 million to \$130 million in 13 years. Furthermore, the number of students over that 13-year period has grown from 2,500 to some 15,000 students now. In other words, the student population has increased more than seven times while the budget has increased more than 30 times its original amount. Funding for the program has actually been increased, and budget reviews every year will have input from the Indian organizations who administer two-thirds of the program. (Issue 2:6)

A table of program expenditures, expressed in terms of current dollars and constant dollars, for the years 1975-76 to 1988-89 and the budget for 1989-90 are provided in Appendix D of this report. A table of Indian post-secondary enrollment for the same time period is also included.

To deal with the impact of the substantial number of people registering as Indians under the 1985 amendments to the *Indian Act*, a special component of the budget has been separately identified and a "management regime" developed by the Department to govern these funds.

A document received from the Department entitled "Bill-C-31 Management Regime 1989-90" states the policy applied to the management of C-31 post-secondary education funds. In essence, this policy provides that, when "regular" program funds in each region are exhausted, outstanding applications of C-31 students are to be deferred along with those of regular students even when there are remaining funds in the C-31 budget. In such a case, funds from the C-31 post-secondary education budget are returned to Headquarters in Ottawa for redistribution. Redistribution is carried out based on the number of deferred applications and on projected demand for the year. The first day for redistribution in the current fiscal year is scheduled for August 15, 1989 and the second and last is scheduled for November 15, 1989. Regional offices are required to report on expected shortfalls or