

## 4. JURISDICTIONAL BARRIERS— 'A TANGLED WEB'

### *Federal/Provincial Logjams*

*If an Aboriginal person goes in to MSSH [Ministry of Social Services and Housing], which is the [provincial] social services agency in British Columbia, and says he needs help, he needs this and that, he isn't working and is disabled, they will look at you—unfortunately, if you're brown like I am it's pretty hard to disguise the fact you're an Indian—and the first thing they say is, you're an Indian, you had better go and see the [federal] Department of Indian Affairs, it has nothing to do with us.*

*If you live in Victoria, which is where I live, the Department of Indian Affairs office is in Nanaimo, which is about 70 miles away...*

*Anyway, you go up there and they say, okay, but the way we see your problem is that it's a medical problem and Medical Services [Health and Welfare Canada] is back in Victoria.*

*So now you have to go back to Victoria. You then go to Medical Services... and they say, oh yes, we can help you—where do you live? Well, if you're like 50% of the Aboriginal people or status people in B.C., you live off the reserve. So you say I live in the city of Victoria. Oh, what are you doing here? You had better go back to MSSH. You say, well, I've been there. They say, they're the people you have to look to ...*

*After you've been around the circle a couple of times, you just say to heck with it and give up.*

Ian Hinksman, Director of  
the B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society,  
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