

requirements of Bill C-21 to end sexual discrimination in the *Indian Act*.¹⁰⁵ Lack of resources could create problems for ongoing efforts to transfer control of health programs to aboriginal people.

It is also recognized that the health problems faced by aboriginal people go beyond the parameters of traditional health care. According to Dr. Lynch, this is a multidisciplinary issue requiring input from various sectors, including social services, housing and environmental services.¹⁰⁶

The Native Council told the Committee that aboriginal people who live outside reserves also experience problems with access to health care services. The Council says, "We do not believe it is good enough for the provinces to say that native people have access to the same services as the rest of the provincial population".¹⁰⁷ Cultural and linguistic differences may be barriers to care for aboriginal people in the service system provided to the general public in the provinces and territories. Recent provincial studies of health care services in Quebec and Saskatchewan have recommended changes to ensure that their provincial health care services better meet the needs of aboriginal people in their jurisdiction. The Native Council is of the view that federal programs affecting the health of Natives should be expanded to include aboriginal people who live outside reserves.¹⁰⁸

5. Immigrants And Cultural Minorities

Some witnesses informed the Committee that linguistic and cultural differences may also create problems of access to appropriate health care services for immigrants and cultural minorities. Even if health care facilities are physically available, they cannot be effective for those members of the community who do not have appropriate oral and written language skills or who live in areas where the service is not sensitive to their particular cultural customs and heritage. The Victorian Order of Nurses, for example, pointed to the need to help immigrants avail themselves of services and for particular attention to be paid to culturally sensitive areas such as behavioural or dietary restrictions

¹⁰⁵ *Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in consideration of the implementation of the Act to amend the Indian Act as passed by the House of Commons on June 12, 1985, August, 1988.* pp. 71-75.

¹⁰⁶ *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence, Issue No. 12, p. 9.*

¹⁰⁷ Brief, p. 7.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*