

among all major enterprises that have dealings with both official languages communities.

II. SUPPORT TO MINORITY OFFICIAL LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

Joint Federal-Provincial Action

12. Your Committee is convinced of the urgent need for a comprehensive framework of federal-provincial cooperation to defend and support official language minorities. Therefore,

The Committee recommends that:

- a) the government convene a federal-provincial conference for no later than the fall of 1986 to present proposals on an ongoing plan to respect and enhance official-language minority rights;
- b) the government immediately begin bilateral discussions with each province to develop cost-sharing plans in order systematically to assure services in the minority official language which are appropriate to that province.

Manitoba Language Rights Case

13. The Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled, in the federal reference case concerning language rights in Manitoba, that the statutes and regulations of that province that were not printed and published in both English and French are invalid and that they are of no force and effect. The Manitoba government and legislature are to be afforded a minimum period of time to comply with the linguistic requirements of the Constitution, during which the laws will be deemed to be temporarily valid. Your Committee recognizes both the past

injustice of the failure to respect the constitutional requirements and the urgency of the present situation. Accordingly,

The Committee recommends that the federal government give strong support to the government of Manitoba in order that it may comply with the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada within the shortest possible delay.

III. FURTHER ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

14. Your Committee has already recommended in its First Report tabled in both Houses on May 29, 1985 that a sub-committee be authorized to carry out a series of public hearings and consultations in a number of centres across the country to determine how individuals and groups view the future development of institutional bilingualism in a multicultural Canada.
15. Your Committee is also aware that there are a number of aspects of the Commissioner's 1984 Report which the Committee has not had time to examine in detail, (for example, language of work and equitable participation, the National Capital Region, language training programs, official languages in education, etc.). We will deal with these aspects as our schedule permits. Our present observations and recommendations are made in the spirit of urging a renewed commitment to the enterprise of linguistic reform. In particular, we are asking the federal government to give more coherent direction to official languages policy and programs and to provide an example of linguistic equality in action.

Respectfully submitted,

DALIA WOOD,
Joint Chairman.