

participation, the high potential for collection of incorrect data is increased even further by social and cultural differences among Aboriginal peoples. Joanne Francis of NAND pointed out that:

We are depending on individuals to identify themselves as Aboriginal people. With so much controversy over who is native and who is not, and to what degree and all of that, as far as the status of Aboriginal people — i.e., the Métis, Innu, status, non-status, registered, non-registered—is concerned, that is where the figures conflict...

Statistics Canada was not able to get a very accurate account of the numbers of disabled Aboriginal people with their last survey [in 1986], for a number of reasons, some of which were because the survey takers were not allowed on every reserve or were restricted to certain communities that were more easily accessible to them, versus the communities located in the north, which has a very high incidence of disability, north of 60...

Hopefully, with our being of assistance and able to consult with Statistics Canada on this approaching post-census survey [in 1991], we hope that we will perhaps be able to assist them in creating a better tool that would be more acceptable and better received by native communities.

Minutes, Issue 39, p.28, 27 November 1990

Some of the data collection problems seem to have been remedied by the comprehensive post-censal survey conducted by Statistics Canada in the fall of 1991. Statistics Canada consulted extensively with Aboriginal people, including those with disabilities, who provided advice on the content and wording of the survey. Hopefully, the proof of this collaboration will surface when Statistics Canada releases its data over the next year.⁶

6. Data on Aboriginal persons with disabilities, along with information on language, health and social issues will be released in May 1993. Data on Aboriginal employment, education and expenses will be released in September 1993, and information on mobility and housing will be made public in early 1994.