

disabled persons from that intended by the government in proceeding to amend the Act. A mechanism specifically accountable for the government's progress on disability issues might have prodded quicker results.

Finally, since the Speech from the Throne in 1986, successive Ministers of Justice have affirmed the government's intention to amend the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, as recommended by *Equality for All*. Since March 1988 the commitment has incorporated the inclusion of reasonable accommodation. For persons with disabilities, this would remove the employer's capacity to refuse to adjust a job to suit the skills and experience of a qualified potential employee who has a disability. Appearing before this Committee on 13 June 1989, the then Minister of Justice, Hon. Doug Lewis, indicated an intention to introduce the amendments early in 1990. When the Hon. Kim Campbell, the Minister of Justice, appeared on 3 May 1990, she reiterated the commitment but postponed the date for action. Again, this shows another area in which a more effective mechanism at the centre of government might have prompted quicker action.

This Standing Committee shares the frustration of those who have been calling for comprehensive action. If one looks at the reports of parliamentary committees for the past decade, it is evident that their calls for change in areas such as those discussed above have not significantly altered the system which has, with no malice aforethought, forgotten about persons with disabilities. From *Obstacles*, through *Equality for All*, *Challenge*, and *No News is Bad News*, our colleagues through the years have listened, recommended and re-recommended. The reports, responses, studies, briefing books, that have resulted have consumed as much time and energy as it would have taken to act.