

community to take part in Committee proceedings with all rights and responsibilities except voting.

ADDITIONAL NATIONAL ISSUES

In addition to issues directly relating to self-government, there are many major aboriginal affairs issues deserving national attention. Classifying aboriginal affairs matters according to their connection with self-government is a difficult task. In most cases, a connection of some kind can be found because of the over-arching goal of reaching an acceptable degree of autonomy and control in all matters affecting aboriginal interests collectively. The following list of issues is in no way to be taken as having any less priority than those listed above under a general self-government agenda. In examining the socio-economic conditions and the political status of aboriginal people in Canada, the web of interconnections between various issues soon becomes obvious.

15. Aboriginal Women

The Native Women's Association was unable to appear before the Committee during the recent set of hearings. However, the Committee is aware that aboriginal women are concerned with the whole range of aboriginal affairs but have focused particular attention on: residual sex discrimination in the Indian Act and the implementation of the 1985 amendments to the Indian Act; family violence; child care; education; funding of the Native Women's Association and its provincial and territorial affiliates.

16. Employment and Economic Development

All relevant socio-economic indicators continue to show that little improvement has occurred in recent years in bridging the socio-economic gap between the aboriginal and non-aboriginal population in Canada. It is generally accepted that improving the employment and economic development opportunities of aboriginal people, collectively and as individuals, is a key priority in addressing this problem. Employment and economic development issues will continue to be fundamental concerns for the indefinite future and will be an important aspect of successful self-government initiatives.