

assuming control of federal Indian health services. Interestingly enough, Aboriginal people have not unanimously praised these plans. Some see the transfer of services as a positive step. Others fear that the whole process is a smoke screen that allows the federal government to give up its responsibilities for Indian health care and to implement drastic cost-cutting measures. People in Aboriginal communities are also concerned about the time frame and the inadequate assistance from Medical Services Branch staff at the pre-transfer planning stages. Specifically, they worry about the limited resources that are dedicated to developing comprehensive assessments of health needs.

In 1990, the National Aboriginal Network on Disability (NAND) provided an example of what may happen when services are transferred from one bureaucracy to another. NAND drew this Committee's attention to the government's failure to act in an organized and consistent fashion to implement the 1981 recommendation in the *Follow up Report* that health promotion and prevention of disabilities should form permanent parts of the curriculum in community schools. According to NAND, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development now claims absolution from implementing this recommendation because Aboriginal band governments have taken control of the school system. Apart from viewing this explanation as an excuse for departmental inaction, NAND argued that DIAND *still* has an obligation to carry out the

