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DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES TO DEVELOP SPECIAL INFORMATION PACKAGES FOR DISABLED PERSONS, AS WELL AS NATIVE PERSONS.

Self-help on the part of disabled persons is impossible without accessibility to information about the services, facilities, programs and other forms of assistance that can be available to them at the community level. This lack of information is a problem faced by all disabled persons, but especially those who are Native Canadians. The Native population in general suffers from a lack of information about the world outside of their communities. They are isolated geographically, culturally, and very often linguistically.

Short-Range Need: In the OB-STACLES report, the Special Committee recommended that a Canadian Information Centre for Disabled Persons be established through the cooperation of Federal, provincial and private organizations. Action is now being taken on this recommendation. On a long-range basis, this centre is crucial, but in the meantime, another project should be initiated which will solve some of the short-range information needs of Native and Non-Native disabled persons throughout Canada. The Committee recommends that a special information package be compiled by the Federal government in

consultation with representatives of disabled persons and Native communities, and which will provide disabled persons with information noted above.

Special Task Force: The Department of Supply and Services has within it a special Task Force on Services to the Public which has two purposes:

- Bringing government closer to the Canadian public.
- Making the government more responsive to individual needs.

In carrying out these purposes, the Task Force has created and published an Index of Federal Government Programs and Services, which features a detailed cross-referencing system. It is recognized within the Federal Government, that the Task Force and its Index has filled a major gap in bringing together information on access to the Federal Government and its services.

Compile And Publish: In view of this existing service the Special Committee recommends that the Task Force on Services to the Public be given the responsibility of compiling and

publishing an information package on services and programs for disabled persons. In carrying this out, the members of the Task Force should do the following:

- Consult with provincial and private sector organizations which also provide programs and services to disabled persons.
- Consult with representatives of disabled persons and their organizations, to ensure that the basic information needs are clearly outlined and approved by people who will be using the information.
- Consult with representatives of Native organizations to ensure that the special needs of disabled Native persons are taken into account.

Good Start: Currently, the Bureau on Rehabilitation at the Department of National Health and Welfare is preparing an inventory and directory of information related to the needs of disabled persons in Canada. The inventory deals specifically with Federal programs and services, while the directory identifies provincial and non-governmental sources where disabled persons can receive