

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objects of the program under the new policy still include:

- i) increasing the number of aboriginal people with university and professional qualifications, and
- ii) creating a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency among aboriginal people.

There are however two changes worth noting. First, the 1989 program aims to contribute to aboriginal self-government as well as economic self-sufficiency. Second, there are certain nuances in language that could be taken to suggest a change in the level of the government's commitment to fund aboriginal post-secondary education. Whereas the 1977 E-12 Guidelines stated without qualification that the program "provides counselling and adequate financial assistance" to Inuit and registered Indians, the 1989 policy statement speaks of providing "financial assistance to eligible Indians and Inuit towards the costs of their post secondary education". In addition, much of the mandatory language of the E-12 Guidelines (will, shall) has been replaced by discretionary language (may) in the new policy.

2. STRICTER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY

Under the 1977 policy, any Inuk or registered Indian attaining entrance to a recognized post-secondary program was eligible provided he/she was a resident of Canada *at the time of application*.¹

Under the 1989 policy an applicant must have been resident in Canada "for the *twelve consecutive months prior to the date of application*".

3. EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES

Under the 1977 policy, students were specifically obliged to accept any financial assistance available elsewhere to offset as much as possible the funding assistance available under the INAC program. Provincial, territorial or private bursaries, scholarships and fellowships awarded on the basis of need were considered a replacement for a portion or all of the costs covered by the INAC program. In this regard, a program for students (aboriginal and