

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

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Many Canadians, most particularly aboriginal people, worry that some proposals for change may instead become excuses for delay in achieving real change. There is also a fear that any delay in government action on the aboriginal affairs agenda may lead to a further deterioration in relations between indigenous people and the federal and provincial governments and other Canadians. Therefore, the Government of Canada should continue, at the fastest pace possible, to reform aboriginal policies in consultation with aboriginal people and any recommendation included in this Report should not be used by any government, or by native leadership, as a reason to delay taking further constructive steps.

### NATIONAL ISSUES

#### 1. Royal Commission On First Nations In Canada

The Government should undertake a consultation process with aboriginal people in Canada on the make-up, mandate and conduct of the Royal Commission proposed below.

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs recommends that the Government immediately establish, under Part I of the Inquiries Act, a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the relations of First Nations with other Canadians, including but not limited to the following subject-matters:

- (i) constitutional reform taking into account current constitutional developments;
- (ii) constitutional and practical aspects of self-government, including the recognition of an inherent right to self-government;
- (iii) the fiduciary responsibility of the federal government to First Nations;
- (iv) the concerns and needs of young aboriginal people including their future economic and lifestyle opportunities;
- (v) with respect to comprehensive claims policy, the inclusion of self-government agreements as part of land claim settlements;
- (vi) the significance for Canadian policy of international human rights standards dealing with indigenous rights.

The terms of reference should include a requirement to make interim reports and timely recommendations on any of the subject-matters falling within its mandate.