

Affairs on the post-secondary education issue;

- could produce some practical and useful recommendations of broad application to many key areas of aboriginal policy;
- could assist non-aboriginal society in understanding the decision-making traditions and values of aboriginal peoples while building bridges between both sectors of society;
- could address the feelings of mistrust in the aboriginal community of the court and other institutions of government because they are based on and driven by non-aboriginal values alone.

14. Organizations Representing Aboriginal Peoples

(i) Funding

A program administered by the Department of the Secretary of State provides funding for the basic operations of dozens of aboriginal organizations at the national and regional level (the Aboriginal Representative Organizations Program). This program has played a critical role in the ability of aboriginal people to effectively capture the attention of government on many important issues. Funding under this program was recently cut in the 1989 Budget by 10% and 15% and several organizations feel their very existence is in jeopardy. The Native Council of Canada raised this issue in the larger context of the need to examine how adequate consultation with the aboriginal community can occur on constitutional, legislative and policy initiatives without a secure funding base for aboriginal organizations.

(ii) Ex Officio Representation on the House Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs

Some aboriginal representatives have urged the Committee to repeat the precedent set by the Special Committee on Indian Self-Government, in allowing designated members of the aboriginal