

precluded from participating in most competitions. To improve the participation of disabled athletes, he proposed the establishment of a secretariat which would be a coordinating and lobbying body. This secretariat would have a mandate to promote the integration of disabled athletes into world class multi-sport competitions.

The Sub-Committee welcomes such proposals. Furthermore, it believes that there should be events open to any and all competitors willing to compete on an equal basis. This would stimulate the development and competitiveness of highly skilled athletes without "casting a cloud" over their individual performance and success and would develop an increased public appreciation of their sports. These events could be part of multi-sport events, such as the Canada Games, Pan Am Games, etc.

The Sub-Committee therefore recommends:

- 6. That a secretariat be established through Sport Canada to encourage and develop events giving support to disabled athletes to compete on an equal basis.**

Concerning gender parity, the Task Force suggests Canada should "increase the number of women in organized competitive sport through the development of sport specific strategies"⁽¹¹⁾ The Dubin Report also affirms the need to re-examine the role and mandate of government in sport in order to attain other goals such as broader participation and better access to sports programs by women, disadvantaged groups and the disabled. The Report concludes that, despite federal efforts to close the gap between male and female participation in sport, much remains to be done. It also suggests that the government agencies' sport policies should encourage equal access for men and women to sports programs and facilities. The Sub-Committee fully supports the views expressed by the Dubin Commission and the Task Force and therefore recommends:

- 7. That gender parity be encouraged through a secretariat established within Sport Canada.**

Some witnesses criticized the Task Force Report and the Dubin Report because they have no specific reference to Native participation in the field of sport. These witnesses noted that the present legislation on fitness and amateur sport does not give any consideration to Native people. In his brief, Alwyn Morris explained that, because of a lack of recreational infrastructure in Native communities, young Native people cannot develop the competitive spirit, skills and level of fitness required to fully participate in the Canadian sports system. He suggested that the federal government allocate special funds for training

⁽¹¹⁾ Task Force Report, p. 39.