

shared program are incalculable in terms of making limited financial resources stretch further. The groups could establish a single campaign both to draw in less active groups and for research, communication, education and lobbying.

Partnerships outside the disability movement to promote significant changes are essential. We saw the positive effect of the formation of partnerships when the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work appeared before us. Recognizing that a gap existed in communications between employers, people with disabilities and the various service organizations, as Robert McInnes, Executive Director of CCRW, told us:

We took it upon ourselves, with our very limited resources to start a communication process with employers, with national corporations and national organizations... (Issue 20, p. 5)

This is just one small area which could be greatly extended to others. For example, many of the disincentives to work, the problems with social assistance and unemployment insurance benefits that apply to people who traditionally are considered to be disabled also apply to people with AIDS or children living in poverty. Currently, devising an AIDS strategy is receiving considerable attention at all levels in the federal government and child poverty has appeared on the political agenda. A coalition composed of AIDS groups, those concerned with child poverty and disabled persons, all with common objectives, could more effectively advocate changes throughout the political and governmental system.

### C. ACTION NOT ADVICE

The aim of this report is to provoke action, not to provide advice. Throughout our hearings on the issue of economic integration, disabled persons provided us with many suggestions as to the best way to proceed. These ideas can be broken down into three general areas: a federal legislative program, a mechanism to ensure accountability at the centre of government and greater federal-provincial co-operation. We believe that progress must occur on all of these fronts if the current needs of persons with disabilities are to be met.

Many of our witnesses submitted proposals which they would like to see included in legislation and regulations. Most of these measures are not new ideas but are a restatement of issues currently under consideration by the government. Pre-eminent among these are amendments to the *Canadian Human Rights Act* to include the concept of accommodation and to address the issue of *bona fide* occupational requirements. Among other suggestions are a variety of issues that could be dealt with by legislative or regulatory reform: employment, election law, the *Canada Evidence Act*, tax and Canadian Pension Plan barriers to employment. Transportation is an obvious area where action has been promised and has been "in the works" for many years. The mechanism in the *National Transportation Act* to establish binding regulations in a host of areas has not been utilized. The *Immigration*