

issues, the constitutional and legal position of the Métis, the special difficulties of life in the North, the problems of developing a viable economic base, unemployment, access to labour markets, discrimination in employment and the control of primary and secondary education on reserves and in native communities. Given the Commission's broad mandate, its extensive research program and public hearings, this Committee believes that the Royal Commission possesses a unique opportunity to make practical recommendations to greatly improve the lives of Aboriginal people in this country.

In this intensive study, the terms of reference of the Royal Commission can be considered to include, but do not specifically mention, the concerns of Aboriginal people with disabilities. This Committee is concerned, that the Members of the Royal Commission are not focusing strongly enough on the specific issue of disability. It is not sufficient to equate disability issues with the provision of health care. We believe it is imperative that all issues important to Aboriginal people with disabilities be addressed head-on and in greater detail than we can provide in this report. Although this report outlines the issues in broad brush strokes, the Commission is in a position to paint a picture with details. If the issue of disability is omitted from the Commission's work, its final report could prove to be of limited value, not only for Aboriginal people with disabilities, but also for their families, their friends and their communities.