

FOREWORD

The purpose of this report is to identify some of the outstanding issues we have encountered. The report does not present specific solutions, other than to strongly suggest that Canadians, through their governments, have a lot of work to do in the decade. This is not a challenge facing only one government or only one Minister. This is a challenge for all Canadians, a commitment that has developed over a period of generations and one which will require concerted commitment over many years.

While there are numerous challenges before us, there are also many positive developments in the field. In the course of their work, members of the committee have heard many views and opinions in many spheres of collective and individual effort. These views stress the need for greater public exposure to help other Canadians struggling with the same problems and issues in their own communities.

The committee invites all Canadians to become aware of the issues that face Aboriginal Canadians, because these issues do not affect Aboriginal Canadians alone. These issues affect all Canadians. They affect the future health, prosperity, sense of fairness and tolerance that allow all Canadians to define themselves.

As we enter the decade of the 1980's, Canadians will want to know to what extent the outlined list of issues will have been advanced by the end of the decade. The committee also invites all Canadians to participate each in their own way to advance these issues. Awareness of Aboriginal issues and challenges is a necessary first step.

The committee and the Chair, in particular, are greatly indebted to the outstanding research and guidance provided by Tony Weir, Researcher, World Bank. He was always graceful for his helpful efforts and work of Chair of the committee, Martin Brown. I personally thank all members of the committee for their patience, cooperation and hard work. I look forward to working with them as we take on the agenda, important to all Canadians, and particularly important to Aboriginal Canadians.