

including as witnesses members of disability organizations and publish and distribute information relating to accessible transportation. Its report and recommendations should be public and it should be required to report within one year of the enactment of the requirement and every three years after that. The Act should specifically mention public interest funding (an Accessible Transport Fund) to facilitate participation by people with disabilities in the consultation process.

- regulations relating to accessibility should be made available in an accessible format.
- the Act should provide for increased fines for contravention of the accessibility regulations and money collected as fines should be paid into the Accessible Transport Fund.

The results of the legislative review recommended by this Standing Committee were contained in Bill C-78, *An Act to amend certain Acts with Respect to Persons with Disabilities*, popularly known as the Omnibus Bill. This legislation received Royal Assent on 18 June 1992 and fulfils promises made in the government response to *A Consensus for Action*. Among other things, Bill C-78 altered the declaration made in section 3 of the *National Transportation Act* to read:

3(1) It is hereby declared that a safe, economic, efficient and adequate network of viable and effective transportation services accessible to persons with disabilities... is essential to serve the transportation needs of shippers and travellers, including persons with disabilities.

The rest of the CDRC's proposals regarding transportation were not enacted. Despite the long period of consultation that had occurred with the disability community, the other proposals for legislative change were left to be 're-reviewed' by the Royal Commission on National Passenger Transportation and by the National Transportation Act Review Commission.

Significantly, when Bill C-78 was making its way through the legislative process, both the initial proposals for an Omnibus Bill made by CDRC and Bill C-78 itself were seen by the disability community, and by the government, as the beginning of a process — not the end of the line. When he appeared before this Committee on the subject matter of Bill C-78, the Secretary of State told us that "these important announcements [of additional measures] and the provisions of Bill C-78 underscore the government's commitment to continued collaboration toward further legislative reform."<sup>8</sup> For its part, CDRC reluctantly commented that "there is a lot of understandable disappointment, in the sense that it [the bill] doesn't include many of the items introduced into the process by our proposal. There is a kind of

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<sup>8</sup> *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Standing Committee on Human Rights and the Status of Disabled Persons*, (hereafter, *Proceedings*), 3rd Session, 34th Parliament, Issue No. 21, p. 7.