

*During our preliminary consultations, frustration has been strongly expressed about the lack of a funding base for service delivery. Several individuals at the band level have stated that a clear understanding exists in their community regarding the needs of band members with disabilities and that what is now required is the establishment of appropriate services... As we proceed with the current initiative, increased pressures will be generated for the provision of services in areas for which DIAND does not currently assume responsibility.*

Material provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 17 March 1992

Perhaps the Departments should pay attention to the band members who are already expressing frustration.

This Committee has concerns about the extent to which the federal government has not listened in the past to the people most affected by its programs. We were disappointed to learn, for example, that while the DIAND initiative directly responds to needs identified by Aboriginal people with disabilities, DIAND did not significantly involve Aboriginal people in the planning stages that established the initial design. According to Normand Levasseur, Acting Director General of DIAND's Social Development Directorate:

*There's been no formal consultation with the native network. Basically, we took part of their report that identified one of the big problems, being the lack of availability and co-ordination [of services].*

*We took that component of the report. Before the government made a decision that Cabinet go with a new program, we did not go specifically to them and ask where we should go. We were able to take part of their report and use it as the best knowledge we had.*

*Minutes, Issue 8, p.24, 11 February 1992*