

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



A guest expert appearing before the Committee in the library of the Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C.

ORDER OF REFERENCE

On Friday, May 23, 1980 the House of Commons adopted a motion establishing the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped.

To act as a Parliamentary Task Force on the Disabled and the Handicapped to evaluate the scope and effectiveness of existing government programs for the disabled and handicapped, as well as the degree to which they interlock with voluntary programs and services, with the objective of suggesting measures to improve the quality of services provided to such persons, provided that the examination shall include the following subjects:

- fundamental and civil rights
 - employment opportunities
 - vocational training
 - business incentives
 - income supplement programs
 - health services and medical rehabilitation
 - quality of life of institutionalized persons
 - community support services
 - access to public buildings and services
 - coordination within and between jurisdictions
 - transportation
 - housing
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BRIEFINGS

To thoroughly review the role of the federal government with respect to the handicapped and the disabled, your Committee held briefing sessions with various government departments and agencies to examine existing programs and activities. In addition to 13 departments and agencies who appeared before the Committee, to date, written responses were invited from a wide number of federal and provincial departments and agencies whose mandates included at least one of the subjects outlined in the Order of Reference. Your Committee also met with major corporations such as Air Canada, Bell Canada and Via Rail whose corporate policies greatly affect disabled persons.