

but the federal government still refuses to provide for them. Ms. Good Water told us that:

I really believe that if Little Mountain were white, living in the city of Vernon [British Columbia], she would be just like the other children in her class and be provided with all these services, which is their natural right. But because she's native and status, living on the reserve, she's not entitled to it...

I have given this a lot of thought and I've gone through a lot of frustration, a lot of anger with this whole process, and I think that we [status Indians] are a federal government responsibility. I really believe the federal government should be making dollars accessible to the native handicapped children residing on reserve.

We should have home [care] programs that are comparable to the provincial home [care] programs. We're not getting it in B.C... I can vote in the provincial election in B.C. but I can't get the services. I believe that I am entitled to it as a Canadian citizen.

Minutes, Issue 7, p.37, 19 November 1991

Too Many Layers?

The jurisdictional situation of Aboriginal people with disabilities could become even murkier as a result of the proposed transfer from the federal government to First Nations of the administration and delivery of health and social services on reserves. Will this benefit Aboriginal people in general and people with disabilities in particular?—or will it add another layer for potential jurisdictional infighting and delay?

The warning signs show that, even where the federal government has not yet transferred services to the community level, the extent to which federal programs meet the needs of Aboriginal people with disabilities often depends