

FOREWORD

This report has given members of the Committee an unparalleled opportunity to visit parts and people of Canada that we otherwise would not have had the opportunity to experience. The homes of our fellow Canadians provided mixed emotions for us. We experienced moments of pride and sorrow in what we saw. We felt compassion and some helplessness during our visits. Perhaps this report will in some way help.

There are those whose housing was quite comparable to what we might experience in an "average southern community". They had an established economic base, form of self-government and relatively stable social environment and a good climate. We learned about them.

There are those settlements that had little of the amenities I have just referred to and, yet, in spite of it all, seemed determined to make their plight a better one in spite of the adversities confronting them. We learned about these people, as well.

It is our sincere wish that this report accurately reflects what we heard, what we saw and what we felt.

Our recommendations are intended to provide a path to resolve the housing problems that exist for our native Canadians in order that they may achieve suitable, adequate and affordable housing.

The Committee and the Chair, in particular, are generally greatly indebted to the Clerk of the Committee, Martine Bresson, whose camera was everywhere and resulted in our photographs, the Library of Parliament Researcher Elaine Gardner O'Toole, and the members staff for their work and efforts in the research and writing of this report.

Most of all I would like to extend the Committees most sincere and heartfelt thanks to those communities that opened their hearts and homes to us—their hospitality was beyond equal and served as an example to the rest of Canada.

I want to thank the members of the Committee whose dedication to this cause was beyond reproach. There were times when detail seemed to attract the attention of some to the frustration of others. When all is said and done our report is better for your participation and I thank you for your determination.

