

Editor's Introduction

David Newhouse

As this issue goes to press, it is now four years since the federal response to the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples was released and six years since the report itself appeared in public. The Final Report, which represents the most comprehensive view of Aboriginal thinking about their future within Canada, has largely disappeared from public view, although it may be still in the minds of government officials and academics. While the report's recommendations have not been adopted in their entirety, the report itself has helped to create increased public awareness of the need for a new relationship between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians. In this respect, the report may have helped to create opportunities for local solutions and better understandings between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. This may indeed be the legacy of the report, notwithstanding its cost.

In this issue, Marlene Brant-Castellano, Professor Emeritus, Native Studies, Trent University, who served as Co-Director of Research for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples presents a retrospective commentary on the report and its effects.

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