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TAQRALIK

*newsletter of the
makivik corporation*

F I R S T C L A S S

M A Y 1 9 8 1

COMMITTEE CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development submitted a five page statement on the government's failure to implement major provisions of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, to the Ministers of Indian Affairs and National Health and Welfare.

After hearing presentations from both the Inuit and Cree, this Committee urged the Minister of Indian Affairs and the Minister of National Health and Welfare to delay the transfer of remaining Indian health services from Federal to Provincial control, in order to prevent a repeat of last year's epidemic which took the lives of several Indian children.

Inuit and Cree representatives also charged that both Federal and Provincial Governments were failing to implement major portions of the Agreement. Both groups stated that even today, five years after the signing of the Agreement, that adequate funding has not been received for community infrastructure as specified in sections 28.11 and 29.0.40 of the Agreement. The committee was especially concerned about health and environmental conditions and urged prompt corrective measures to improve the present state of affairs.

Also aggravating the present situation is that the "catch-up" funding that was supposed to be provided by the Fed-

eral Government for essential services, neglected during the negotiations of the agreement has not been provided.

The Committee objects to the curtailment of regular funding for local projects which is ordinarily available to Native people. Inuit and Cree representatives acknowledge receiving compensation but were annoyed

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Provinces Meet on Native Rights

The provincial and territorial governments met in Alberta at the end of March with Cabinet Ministers in attendance, to discuss native rights issues and the constitution.

The provincial governments have never before met at a high level on native issues, but the historic January 30 amendments to the Trudeau government's constitutional plan recognising aboriginal rights for Indians, Metis and Inuit was able to make them assemble to discuss how to oppose protection for natives in the constitution. Additional meetings will be held.

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IDC BIDS FOR LAMBAIR

The President of Lambair Limited says that Northland Outdoors and the Inuit Development Corporation (IDC) have made a \$1.5 million joint offer for his bankrupt airline.

Lambair president Jack Lamb says the offer for assets and routes, made at a meeting of the airline's creditors in Winnipeg, came as a surprise.

He said it came despite a financial agreement between Lambair and Northland and a commitment to have some employees remain part of the air service if it merged with Northland's Ilford-Riverton Airways.

Trustee Bernard Fratkin said a decision on the offer hinges on whether Canadian Transport licences would be available and is complicated by creditors' claims on Lambair.

Rights.. con't from pg 1

Some provincial governments recognised reluctantly that they have unfilled responsibilities towards native people. Mr Eric Goudreau representing Premier Levesque at the meeting, made a very favorable impression on the other delegates who were unaware of the very difficult relations he has with the Inuit, Cree and various other Quebec native groups.

Under the constitution, the provinces have powers over lands and resources, as well as most development matters. The Federal Government retains powers to legislate for native peoples, as a protection against these provincial powers. A major reason why native groups seek a constitutional amendment that would require their consent to constitutional changes on clauses affecting them is to prevent a transfer of federal protective powers to the provinces who have shown through history little interest in native people when a development project was possible.

Committee.. con't from pg 1

because this money had to be used to provide services that are stipulated in other parts of the Agreement.

Native representatives stated that compensation monies were for damages caused to their hunting and fishing territories as well as for the extinguishment of their aboriginal title and surrender of their lands. This view was supported by the Committee. In order to prevent a total collapse of the Agreement some method must be found to ensure full and fair implementation.

The Committee made several recommendations. First it urged that the Government appoint a Commissioner immediately under the Inquiries Act to investigate complaints about implementation and non-compliance with the Agreement and to report any findings to Parliament.

Secondly estimates must be approved to provide essential funding for Federal Government obligations. In the long term legislation may be needed.

And finally the Standing Committee requested that both governments cease their arguments and work together in the spirit as well as the letter of the Agreement.

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ITC Concerned About Bill C 48

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) presented an 18 page statement to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works on April 07, 1981 to express their concern over the Federal Government's Oil and Gas Act, Bill C-48. Although ITC supports this bill, they place several qualifications on their support.

The reserving of a crown share of interests created under the proposed new law is supported by ITC but only if certain conditions are met. Bill be accompanied by clear statements from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Energy Mines and Resources, this share will be an open topic of negotiations between the Federal Government and the aboriginal title holders.

The second qualification ITC wants is for Bill C-48 to provide assurances that any crown share arising from oil and gas activity in areas of aboriginal title, shall be maintained in the hands of the crown until comprehensive land claim settlements are in effect in those areas.

The final qualification is that the 25% share reserved for the crown is inadequate to allow for both an on-going and significant government ownership of a critical sector of the Canadian economy and an equitable and workable settlement of comprehensive land claims. As a result ITC supports a substantial increase in the crown's share. Also ITC suggested that serious consideration be given to whether a bare 50% minimum Canadian ownership is enough to ensure Canadian control.

ITC was also concerned that progress towards the formation of Nunavut could be stalled unless guarantees are made concerning revenue-sharing from Canada Lands. ITC feels that Nunavut should get revenue-sharing offers similar to those that the Federal Government is offering to southerners for offshore Canada Lands.



Photo: I. Anowak

Michael Amarook, President of ITC.

ITC also outlined five major objectives that they feel a national energy program should emphasize. There are: a concerted conservation program; Canadian energy selfsufficiency; comparable energy costs for all Canadians; effective Canadian control over energy development, with participation by citizens most directly affected; and development of energy sources in a manner which minimizes environmental damage and which takes into consideration the socio-economic well-being of the communities most directly affected by development.

During their presentation, ITC made a series of recommendations as follows:

- 1) Initial environmental evaluation should be a legislative requirement.
- 2) Preliminary environmental assessment should reflect the expected levels of exploration activity.
- 3) The scope of studies should include a study of the question of compensation to users of renewable resources, who are likely to be negatively affected by activities authorized under the legislation.
- 4) An environmental studies revolving fund, under the control of the Department of the Environment should be required to maintain a minimum balance of 30 million dollars.

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INUIT MUST STRENGTHEN TIES

Close relations between Greenland and Canadian Inuit must be a priority of Makivik and of other Inuit regions in Canada, according to Charlie Watt, President of Makivik Corporation, especially in the areas of Inuktitut language development and economic projects.

At the executive meeting in February of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) in Ottawa, Hans-Pavia Rosing, President of the ICC, concluded the conference by stating that representatives of Alaska, Greenland and Canada have agreed that economic development must be a top priority. Mary Simon of Northern Quebec, who is one of Canada's two executive committee members, represented Canadian Inuit at the meeting.

Mr Rosing visited the first executive meeting of the Inuit Interpreter-Translators Association of Canada in Montreal following the ICC meeting. He assured the executive of ICC and Greenland of support for their work. Charlie Watt also applauded the start that has been made on strengthening and promoting Inuktitut.

The economic relations committee of the ICC will be meeting soon to start working on specific projects. This work is urgent because Greenland, which is now part of the European Economic Community will hold a referendum next year to leave the community. Greenland will then have to find new sources of supplies, of investment capital and of economic partnership.

Inuit in Canada and Alaska have been anxious to work with the Greenland Inuit to help develop new economic activities in the northern part of the world, where non-Inuit governments and companies rarely show understanding of Inuit needs.

Charlie Watt and Eric Tagoona, co-chairmen of the Inuit Committee on National Issues (ICNI), will both be working closely with the economic relations committee in order to see that it is a success. Charlie Watt has sent a Makivik staff member to Greenland to help prepare for the first meetings of the committee.

"The Canadian Government seems to be asleep and not interested in the opportunities for closer relations between northern Canada and Greenland," said Mr Watt.

"I have met with senior officials and talked with cabinet ministers, but they have not yet seen beyond the Danish government's insistence that Denmark must speak on behalf of Greenland Inuit interests. Makivik is going to have to take the lead to make sure that Canadians generally and Inuit particularly do not lose out on the situation which is now being created. We can be sure that the Americans are wide awake to the new situation."

Mr Watt said that the common language of Canadian and Greenland Inuit, common traditions and a spirit of unity in the Inuit homeland were important reasons for making sure that Inuit in both Greenland

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Greenland Seeks Environmental Support

In late March a representative of Makivik visiting Greenland to discuss economic co-operation between Makivik and Greenland interests, met with Greenland's Inuk Premier Jonathan Motzfeldt.

Premier Motzfeldt said that he believes all Inuit must work together as the soldiers and police of the arctic to make sure that developments do not damage the arctic environment. He said that Greenlanders and probably other Inuit as well could not survive unless there was a healthy renewable resource environment for them to live from.

Premier Motsfeldt also said that he believed the Greenlanders had done more work on Inuktitut than any other country. They were willing to share this work with all Inuit in order to strengthen Inuit unity.

Before Greenland gained home-rule, by which Inuit can now run the most important areas of their lives, many Inuit feared that this would be too difficult and complicated. However, this has now changed and there is a mood of optimism and self-confidence resulting from the beginning of home-rule. Many difficult problems remain for Greenland to solve, Mr Motsfeldt says, but people have more ideas now about what can be done.

Many Canadian Inuit had doubted that Greenland home-rule was really an effective way for Inuit to gain control of their lives, but this certainly is not the view of the leaders of the several Greenland political parties. Even those who were doubtful about home-rule two years ago, now enthusiastically support it.

Inuit..con't from pg 5

and Northern Canada obtained the maximum benefits from the new political situation in Greenland.

He added that in such areas as air cargo, air service, co-operative development and fishing there could be important immediate benefits for Canadian Inuit in working with the Greenlanders. "Larger opportunities take more planning and that is why we are sitting down with the Greenlanders now to talk about what needs to be done," Mr Watt concluded.

Airstrips..con't from pg 3

As a result of this meeting Makivik and KRG will present a document to CATA in one month's time, which will be a reply with suggestions and alternative to ideas proposed in this discussion paper.

Contact will be made with Transport Quebec to try to finalize their share of the costs of this program. Another meeting is being planned for June, this time, hopefully with the participation of Transport Quebec.



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SAMI WANT RECOGNITION FROM NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT

Because Norwegian people, like the people of Quebec, are so nationalistic, they are very reluctant to accept that a minority living in the same country have special needs and rights which must be taken into consideration. Even if it is a minority like the Inuit who have lived there much longer than any other people. The native rights movement in Norway has only recently been widely noticed by the public and so it may take some time before Sami positions are understood.

In April, a representative of Makivik's constitutional staff met with Sami, government and southern lobby representatives in Norway to discuss how Canadian Inuit were developing their constitutional position. The Norwegians were very interested in this work and requested much information which is now being sent to them.

As Makivik's Mark R. Gordon, said in a letter in February sent to the Norwegian Prime Minister supporting Sami rights, the world is small and the actions of one government or one native group affect the future of other governments and other native groups. The struggles of the Sami in Norway or the Inuit in Quebec are much more important for the future of all peoples than just within the borders of their own regions.

The Norwegian Sami (Lapps) are struggling with their government to have their aboriginal rights recognised in the face of hydro-electric development projects in Arctic Norway.

The arctic areas of Norway were long occupied by only the Sami and their reindeer herds (caribou). Now people from southern Norway have moved into the Sami land and have taken over power because of their greater numbers, their status as members of the national majority population and their greater economic power.

The Sami are asking for the same sort of recognition as are Inuit in



Photo: W. Tagoona

Hans Pavia-Rosing, President of ICC (second from left), John Amaroalik, Vice-President of ITC (third from left) and Mary Simon, Canadian Representative to the ICC.

Canada. They emphasize that they are not trying to create a state separate from Norway, but within Norway they want political, cultural and economic rights recognised so that their society will continue to exist and grow stronger. The government of Norway has set up two important committees to make recommendations for the future of the Sami. One committee will study cultural matters and the other will deal with constitutional questions such as an elected Sami parliament.

Studies have been made which show that the Sami have difficulties to communicate in Norwegian, French or English. These languages have a very limited environmental vocabulary while the Sami language is extremely rich in words relating to weather and environment.

Sami linguists would like to work with Inuit to see if it is possible to work out better ways to understand the traditional environmental wisdom of northern peoples and to communicate this to governments determined to build projects which change the environment forever.

Research Going To Iceland

One of the more interesting trips being planned is a visit to Iceland by Johnny Peters and two or three hunters from Payne Bay and Koartac. They plan to travel to the small island country in the north Atlantic towards the end of May to see Eider Duck farms. These farms will demonstrate the practical application of wildlife research. The trip is being funded by Makivik and DIAND.

Members of the Research Department will also be attending an International Symposium on Renewable Resources and the Economy of the North from May 3 to 8, 1981. Josey Agma and Lorraine Brooke of the Makivik Research Department and Sammy Ekoomiak of Kativik Regional Government will be travelling to this meeting to be held in Alberta.

These representatives hope to use Makivik Research Projects as examples of the important roles northerners should play in the research of northern resources. Sammy Ekoomiak will also be talking about the Hunter Support Program which is operated by the Regional Government.

Daniel Weetaluktuk of Makivik's Research Department will be attending the

Canadian Archaeological convention on April 28, 29, 30. Daniel will be presenting his impressive report of the archaeological survey of the Sleeper and Ottawa Islands.

Members of the Makivik Research Department will be busy with a number of important meetings and trips in the near future.

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5) Funding should be made available to aboriginal title holders to participate in any studies pertaining to land over which they hold aboriginal title.

Eric Tagoona, who presented the paper to the Standing Committee said ITC is anxious to ensure that no new legislation interferes with land claims negotiations. He stated that ITC strongly recommends that a section be added on to the bill which says that nothing in the bill may be interpreted so as to eliminate, diminish or modify any aboriginal title or any form of aboriginal rights that may be in existence at the date that the bill comes into effect.



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