

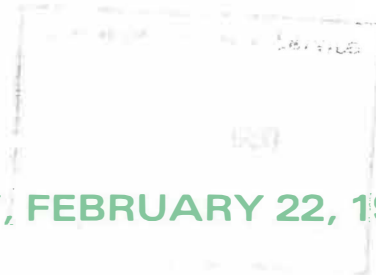
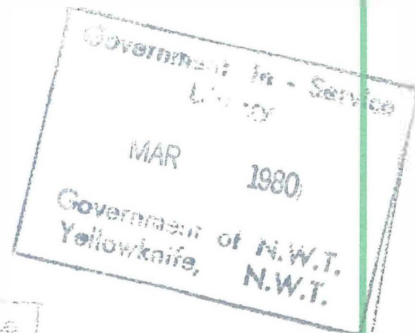


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

2nd Session

9th Assembly

Official Report



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1980

Pages 688 to 731

Speaker: The Honourable Robert H. MacQuarrie, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1980

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. George Braden, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Curley, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Fraser, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. McLaughlin, Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Noah, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Sibbeston, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Tologanak, Hon. James Wah-Shee

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Members will know that this afternoon is an historic occasion. The ITC, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada which has offered a political development position which calls for the establishment of Nunavut, an Eastern Arctic territory separate from the present Northwest Territories, asked some time ago for the opportunity to present its position to this House and Members agreed that they should appear today, February 22nd. I have the honour to tell you that the delegation is present in the House now and I will exercise my prerogative as Speaker and introduce them to you. The head of the delegation is Thomas Suluk, land claims project director.

---Applause

Introduction Of Witnesses

Others in the delegation are assistant land claims project director, Allen Maghagak; legal counsel for ITC, John Merritt; Peter Allareak who is the president of the Keewatin Inuit Association. I believe he is not here at the moment. I do not see Simon Awa, president of the Baffin Region Inuit Association either, but I believe that he will be here. I think that is Simon just entering at the present time. Simon Awa, president of the Baffin Region Inuit Association.

---Applause

They will of course be appearing as witnesses in committee of the whole a little later. This afternoon as well I have a message from the hon. Member for Keewatin South, Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker and Members, I wish to take this opportunity to let you know why I am absent this early Friday afternoon. Travel schedule has allowed me to take a flight from Churchill to Yellowknife. If all goes well I will see you later this Friday afternoon, 22nd February, 1980. To those members of ITC I wish to welcome you to this Assembly as you make your historic presentation in the territorial Legislative Assembly to explain your position with respect to land claims and constitutional development. Yours sincerely, Tagak Curley, MLA, Keewatin South.

Of course all of us in this House extend a similar welcome to you here this afternoon. I would also like to call to the attention of Members another small delegation that is in this House as well. Ever since 1972 when I led a delegation of high school students from across the Northwest Territories to an Interchange on Canadian Studies in Calgary, ever since that time high school students from all across the Northwest Territories have attended Interchange meetings once a year in various Canadian cities. In this year of 1980, Yellowknife has been chosen to host the 1980 Interchange on Canadian Studies and there will be high school students coming from all across Canada to Yellowknife in the last week of April and the first part of May.

Recognition Of Interchange On Canadian Studies Officials

The executive directors, the executive officers of Interchange on Canadian Studies, ICS, are here this afternoon and I would like to recognize them as well. Ms. Diane Lapierre, president of ICS from Sainte Foy, Quebec. Mr. Ralph Taylor, vice-president, ICS from Moncton, New Brunswick. Ms. Janet Driscoll, treasurer of ICS from St. John's, Newfoundland. Finally Mr. Maurice Bergeron who is the past president also from Sainte Foy, Quebec.

---Applause

It would be of interest to Members of this House to know as well that our own Deputy Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Harry Mayne is the national co-ordinator and will be the main host for that event later this year.

Item 2, oral questions.

Item 3, questions and returns.

ITEM NO. 3: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Mr. Patterson.

Question 72-80(1): Hand Over Of Housing To Hamlets

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Minister of Local Government. Does the Department of Local Government have any written or unwritten policy regarding handing over of Government of the Northwest Territories property including housing units to a settlement once it becomes a hamlet? Was this done for Frobisher Bay when it became a hamlet? If not, will the Department of Local Government do something about handing over housing units or other property to the village of Frobisher Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: Other written questions? Mr. Evaluarjuk.

Question 73-80(1): Economic Development's Plans Concerning Arts And Crafts In The N.W.T.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) My question, Mr. Speaker, is directed to Economic Development. It is concerning crafts...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Evaluarjuk, excuse me. The interpreters are finding it too fast.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) If the Department of Economic Development is prepared to turn their arts and crafts workshops over to private business, in order to clarify return to Question 22-80(1), would the co-ops be given priority with regard to these arts and crafts/carving shops? This is quite important because the craft industry would get worse if businesses other than the co-ops try to take up this endeavour. The co-ops already have available outlets including CAP, Canadian Arctic Producers' carving marketing division and their associated stores, Northern Images.

MR. SPEAKER: Was the translation finished? I must assume it was. Other written questions. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, maybe when the motions are given I will understand it better.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Mr. Patterson.

Question 74-80(1): Policy Manual On Education In The N.W.T.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister of Education. Is there a policy manual or handbook on education in the Northwest Territories? If so, could that policy be tabled in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Other written questions. Returns from Ministers. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Return To Question 69-80(1): Highways, Arctic Bay And Nanisivik

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: This is an answer to a question asked by Mr. Patterson regarding the Department of Public Works. Question 69-80(1), Highways, Arctic Bay and Nanisivik.

The highways division of the Department of Public Works is in the planning stage of letting a contract for maintenance of the Nanisivik highway. A meeting will be held with the Baffin regional director, the head of highways maintenance and the hamlet council of Arctic Bay to work out a suitable arrangement for all parties concerned. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Other returns from Ministers.

Item 4, petitions.

Item 5, tabling of documents.

ITEM NO. 5: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document Tabled Document 10-80(1): Report on Health Conditions in the Northwest Territories 1978 by the chief medical health officer, Government of the Northwest Territories.

Tabled Document 11-80(1): Information Package on Services for the Aged and Disabled in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Are there other documents?

Item 6, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 7, notices of motion.

Item 8, motions.

ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

Motion 19-80(1), Minimum Wage, Northwest Territories, Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion 19-80(1): Minimum Wage, Northwest Territories

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories is now \$3.00 per hour and \$2.55 per hour under 17 years of age;

AND WHEREAS this means that those individuals paid the minimum wage would earn approximately \$120 per week or \$6240 per year; under 17 years of age, \$102.00 per week or \$5304 per year;

AND WHEREAS the last increase in the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories took place on June 7th, 1976;

AND WHEREAS the average weekly wage in Canada during 1978 was \$265.40, \$13,800.00 per year and the average weekly wage in the Northwest Territories during 1978 was \$310.30, \$16,135.60 per year. -- source: Statistics Canada Catalogue 72-002 for firms with more than 20 employees;

AND WHEREAS the consumer price index has increased approximately 48 per cent since the last increase in the minimum wage four years ago. Source: Statistics Canada Catalogue 62-010;

AND WHEREAS several provinces in Canada have minimum wages in excess of \$3.00 per hour;

AND WHEREAS consumer price surveys on consumer products, housing and food reveal that the cost of living in the Northwest Territories is higher than in southern Canada;

AND WHEREAS because of higher consumer costs in the Northwest Territories it follows that the Northwest Territories should therefore be a leader in hourly wage levels;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Mackenzie Great Bear, that this Assembly recommend to the administration that an amendment to the Labour Standards Ordinance which would increase the minimum wage to \$3.50 per hour and for persons under 17 years of age to \$2.95 per hour be prepared and introduced into this House prior to the conclusion of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been duly moved and seconded. To the motion, Mrs. Sorensen.

People Trying To Survive On Minimum Wage

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had brought this motion forward during this session because I feel there is an urgency to this matter. There are many people, particularly young women with dependent children attempting to survive on the minimum wage. I know this because I have worked with them in my former job as a consumer advocate, and more recently I have met several who are in my constituency and no doubt several Members here have people in their constituencies who are attempting to live on a minimum wage. Now, these people are attempting to pay for rent, for food, for baby-sitting fees, for transportation costs, for entertainment and clothing all on \$120 per week. Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned I think it is an impossible task.

Now, it is true that with public housing and now with our direct subsidy for day care people who are in this very low income bracket are getting some relief. It is also true that because of this the struggle to survive on minimum wage will be somewhat less, but a struggle it still will be. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, recognizing that many people in the North will be working in jobs which pay a minimum wage, particularly since the North primarily provides service industry jobs to the unskilled as opposed to factory or refinery or mill type jobs where wages are traditionally higher, recognizing this and I think this Assembly should make sure that the minimum wage is at least closer to being adequate than it is now at three dollars per hour. An important fact is that the minimum wage has not been increased since June, 1976. Almost four years have passed since then and they have been as you know, Mr. Speaker, and hon. Members, four years of skyrocketing inflation, particularly high increases in food and clothing have been experienced in the North and yet our minimum wage has remained constant.

Statistics In Support Of The Motion

Now, I dug out some statistics to support my argument for an increase, and I hope I will not bore you with them, but you will note in the fourth whereas clause the average 1978 weekly wage in both Canada and in the Northwest Territories is more than double that of the Northwest Territories minimum weekly wage of \$120. In September, 1979, just a few months past, the average weekly wage in the Northwest Territories rose to \$365.40, a full threetimes higher than the minimum wage. So, obviously those employed in government and industry are well paid but our unskilled people who must work in the service sectors are not even making a living wage if they are paid at three dollars an hour.

I have statistics as well for the regions for the year 1977. Again Statistics Canada reveals that the average income in the Baffin was \$13,689, for the Keewatin \$11,688, for the Fort Smith region \$13,960, and for the Inuvik region \$14,544. Remember that that was in 1977 and that is more than two years ago. Just to compare again, a person earning the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories would bring home about \$6240 a year.

Further support for an increase is evident in the fact that prices for virtually everything have increased dramatically over the last four years. Food increases have probably been the most dramatic and food is the one thing that those in the low income bracket cannot cut out of their budget. Since 1976 the Consumer Price Index has increased by about 48 per cent. More specifically what used to cost \$1.50 in 1975 now costs slightly more than two dollars in 1980 and increases, as you all know, are continuing. Yet again our territorial minimum wage has not increased.

Cost Of Goods And Services Higher In N.W.T.

In addition to all that we know that it costs more to live in the Northwest Territories. I could produce and quote all sorts of studies and figures for the Members. However, I am sure that most would accept that fact. Therefore it follows that along with all wages, the minimum wage should be higher in the North than in southern Canada. We certainly seem to accept that the businessman can charge more to cover his cost of operating in the North. Some may dispute of course, how much more he can charge but I think the basic principle is accepted that charges for services and goods would legitimately be higher in the North than the South. Therefore it logically follows, at least it is logical to me, that the minimum wage in the North should be higher as well, but of course that is not the case.

We are quickly falling behind some of the provinces. Saskatchewan for instance is at \$3.50 an hour now and will increase to \$3.65 on May 1st. Manitoba's minimum wage is \$3.15 an hour and Quebec is presently at \$3.47 an hour. Recently I read in the Edmonton Journal that Alberta presently at three dollars an hour will be increasing its minimum wage substantially some time during the first four months of this year, 1980. British Columbia and the Yukon both presently paying three dollars an hour, have not increased their minimum wage since 1976 so therefore I would anticipate that this province and territory would be introducing legislation as well to provide for increases in the very near future.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, I would not like to see us wait even until the fall to introduce an increase in the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories. It is my feeling that this government has been remiss in allowing our minimum wage to fall behind other provinces, particularly in light of our higher cost of living. My first inclination was to suggest that we go to four dollars an hour. However, to be fair to the businessman I have compromised with \$3.50. I did however commission an independent group to do a telephone survey of several businesses in several communities in the North to find out what the businesses were paying as starting wages for staff who had no previous experience. As of January, 1980, the study reveals and I am delighted to report to you that out of 32 businesses consulted one would not give out the information and only two others paid less than \$3.50 an hour.

Most Businesses Pay More Than Minimum

With this information then I do feel that those Members concerned about the hardship on the businessman in increasing the minimum wage can rest somewhat more easily. A significant number of businesses in the Northwest Territories have already recognized that they must pay more than the minimum to their staff and what we need to do here is make sure through legislation that those people working for businesses which will only pay minimum wage no matter what, experience an increase in pay, an increase after four years I might add, something all of us here today have probably experienced once each year whether we are hunters or trappers, local businessmen, long-time politicians or government employees. Mr. Speaker, I will distribute the survey for all Members to look at. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Other comment on the motion? Mr. Fraser as seconder.

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think I have too much to say on the motion. I think the mover of the motion has been quite straightforward in that the last minimum wage was in 1976, the increase rather, in 1976. The territorial government have experienced that in the last two years on the prices of gas and oil. Mr. Speaker, I think that the minimum wage when you go to buy food in the stores, they will tell you the wage is still low for the wage earner who is just starting out and, as I said, the mover of the motion has put it quite straightforwardly to this House that there is a need for an increase in the minimum wage. That is one of the reasons that I second the motion. For me to say any more about the motion, Mr. Speaker, I just hope that we get some support from the rest of the Members for this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Fraser. Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, all I wish to say is that I am convinced. I am impressed with the way the motion was researched. I myself have thought that an increase in the minimum wage was long overdue. I am happy to see that many businesses in the Northwest Territories are already paying at least \$3.50 an hour, but I do know that there are some who are not, who probably could pay more. If that is all we accomplish in recommending this change in the legislation, then we will have done a significant amount.

Labour Standards Ordinance Needs Reviewing

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that when we get into debate on Justice and Public Services I am going to be focusing on the Labour Standards Ordinance and questioning how much we are doing about enforcing it and making people aware that there are procedures for making complaints under that ordinance to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements of the law in the Northwest Territories. I might also say that I think this sort of legislation must be given a special emphasis when one realizes that in my part of the Northwest Territories anyway very few people have the protection of collective bargaining and the collective bargaining process. This Labour Standards Ordinance and the Fair Practices Ordinance are all they have got in the way of statutorily protected rights as employees. There is also, of course, the Wages Recovery Ordinance which I should not forget to mention. This legislation is important. This change, if we make it, is in fact making up for the lack of bargaining representation of many segments of the labour force in certain parts of the Northwest Territories including the Eastern Arctic. Therefore, I think I am delighted that the motion was made. I hope it is acted upon with serious consideration and due haste and I do think it is long overdue and I support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I commend the hon. Member for Yellowknife South for her excellent presentation. I do not recall that I have seen a better job of presentation and research for any motion that has come before this House in the time that I have served as a representative and I think it was very ably done. I would mention that I did raise this motion or draw this motion to the attention of the Executive Committee this morning and the response was that the government does not feel it would have any trouble acceding to the direction that the motion is requesting of us.

---Applause

Ordinance Should Receive Public Scrutiny

How do you like that for responsive government? I would like to point out, sir, that the Labour Standards Ordinance is due to come before this House in the very near future. There is some suggestion that a number of the sections and provisions should receive public scrutiny before they do come before us and the hon. Member from Yellowknife South has been most vocal in ensuring that this opportunity for the public to see these provisions and sections must occur before we see it in the sense of draft legislation. So while the bill that the hon. Member is promoting at this time could go forward relative to the wages, there would be other sections that would be coming forward later on in this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Mr. Butters. Other discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 19-80(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. It has been duly moved and seconded that this Assembly recommend to the administration that an amendment to the Labour Standards Ordinance which would increase the minimum wage to \$3.50 an hour and for persons under 17 years of age to \$2.95 per hour be prepared and introduced into this House prior to the conclusion of this session. Those in favour of this motion please indicate by raising your hands. Opposed, please indicate. Carried.

---Carried

Are there other motions? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, could the record show that that motion was not opposed?

MR. SPEAKER: It does with your statement, Mr. Patterson. If there are no other motions, is it agreed we resolve into committee of the whole?

---Agreed

Item 9, consideration in committee of the whole of bills, recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and other matters.

ITEM NO. 9: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS

This House will now resolve into committee of the whole to discuss those items listed on the order paper with Mr. Tologanak in the chair.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Representations by Inuit Tapirisat of Canada with Mr. Tologanak in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER REPRESENTATIONS BY INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come to order. I am glad to be back in this House again. I have been stranded for a day or so and getting sick. Does the committee wish that we call upon ITC to make their presentation?

---Agreed

I call upon the ITC representation, Mr. Suluk, Mr. Merritt, Mr. Maghagak, Mr. Awa. I know the welcome mat has been extended to you people from the Speaker. I welcome you to our committee of the whole discussions and the floor is yours.

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off by first of all introducing our ITC colleagues who are here with me today. On my left is, as you heard before, Allen Maghagak, the former president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association who is now the assistant claims project director of the ITC land claims project. On my right is John Merritt, one of the ITC land claims legal counsel and at the back right behind me is Mr. Peter Allareak, the president, acting president of the Keewatin Inuit Association. I also have Nick Amautinuvar, who will be representing the Central Arctic. I regret to inform you that one of our people, Mr. Simon Awa, the president of the Baffin Region Inuit Association, is not here with us at this time. I understand he has other commitments in Yellowknife.

First of all I would like to warn you that we will not be discussing or that I will not be discussing the political development paper at this time. However, if it is the wish of this committee or this Assembly to ask questions at the end of our presentation we will be able to answer questions of a general nature.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Thomas Suluk, and presently I am the ITC land claims project director and am also the chief negotiator for the Northwest Territories land claims project. With the exception of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, I am responsible for the negotiation of a land claims settlement covering all Inuit in Nunavut. As you will appreciate, I am very well aware of the responsibility of that position.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Legislative Assembly today. Following the custom of the Inuit, I shall make my address with openness and frankness and with a certain amount of politeness.

Relationship Between The Assembly And Inuit Tapirisat

In the past, relations between the ITC and the Legislative Assembly have seldom been good. This fact has reflected a larger one, the relationship between the Inuit of Nunavut, the people of Nunavut and the Legislative Assembly have seldom been good. I do not intend to go over all the reasons for past bad feelings. I would however, like to say a few words about disagreement between ITC and past Legislative Assemblies over the two most important issues confronting the people of Nunavut, land claims and political change.

Allow me to make a general observation about the term "land claims". The Inuit and other aboriginal peoples find the term to be misleading and dangerous. The term has encouraged many southern Canadians and regretfully many northerners as well, to regard negotiations between the federal government and aboriginal peoples as a matter of beads and blankets. The beads and blankets belong in The Bay, and do not build the basis for a comprehensive settlement between the federal government and the Inuit. I am confident that everyone here shares my belief that a comprehensive settlement, together with political change, should identify a way for Inuit and non-Inuit to live and work together. With that confidence, I shall use the term "land claims" in this address.

The ITC has always approached land claims with two basic premises. First, the Inuit use and occupation of the lands and offshore areas of Nunavut over 4000 years give the Inuit a legal and moral right to have some say about what happens to those lands and offshore areas in the future. Secondly, any land claims settlement should be effective in safeguarding the survival of the Inuit as a people, but safeguarding the survival of the people is no easy task. It requires a familiarity with the Canadian political system. It requires an understanding of what has happened to aboriginal peoples in other parts of Canada. It requires a hard-nosed assessment of the variety and strength of outside pressures coming to bear on the Inuit. It requires an awareness of the way in which non-Inuit view the North, view the Inuit and view themselves. It requires creativity and imagination. It requires the courage to arrive at a legally binding definition of a birthright, and it requires, and I make no apology for this, time to learn, time to teach and time to prepare.

Government Of The N.W.T., Role In Land Claims Negotiations

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to use my native tongue for the next three paragraphs. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to speak in Inuktitut briefly and ask councillors interested -- the previous Legislative Assembly was not always agreeable to the premises of the ITC in its proposed land claims. This lack of receptiveness has been evident for a number of years. The past Assembly insisted that the existing Government of the Northwest Territories play a large role in land claims in negotiations between ITC and the Government of Canada. This has created problems for several reasons.

First there is an insistence on the Government of the Northwest Territories presence at the negotiation table which has always been accompanied by implied questioning of the legitimacy of ITC in negotiating on behalf of the Inuit. Secondly, ITC has asked for constraint on the successful negotiation of innovative solutions for issues through land claims. The Government of the Northwest Territories bureaucracy has its own instinct for survival, its own appetite for expansion. The Government of the Northwest Territories presence is magnified by Legislative Assembly demands on the federal government for increased control over wildlife.

Then there is the constraint upon the successful negotiation of innovative solutions for issues dealt with through land claims. The Government of the Northwest Territories bureaucracy has its own instinct for survival, its own appetite for expansion. The Government of the Northwest Territories presence magnified by stated Legislative Assembly demands upon the federal government for increased control over wildlife, non-renewable resource development, land management and social programs has inspired considerable uneasiness among ITC negotiators. Thirdly, ITC have been concerned that a Government of the Northwest Territories presence complicates and downplays a process that should bring about a direct contractual relationship between the Inuit of Nunavut and the people of Canada.

Attitude On Land Claims Of Previous Assemblies

Mr. Chairman, ITC's opposition to the Government of the Northwest Territories role in land claims has been prompted by a further and perhaps more emotionally charged factor. Earlier Legislative Assemblies have created, and sometimes cultivated, the impression that land claims constitute, at best, a nuisance that should be quickly overcome and, at worst, an unseemly grab for land and money. Indeed, the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories have more often treated land claims as a burden borne on the backs of northerners than as an opportunity for the aboriginal peoples of the North.

This perception has been reinforced by the actions of past Assemblies and I will give some examples. ITC and other organizations have often requested the federal government to impose a "development freeze" on environmentally sensitive areas included within the land claims negotiations. Past Legislative Assemblies have failed to support such requests. Indeed past Assemblies have displayed an obvious indifference when aboriginal rights have been eroded or erased by resource developments planned and approved in southern Canada without any consultation with representative native organizations. The Inuit of Baker Lake, faced with development activity of untold dimensions and directions, recently felt obligated to defend aboriginal rights through the courts, and I should add at this point that I have just returned from the community of Baker Lake and have completed my own private investigation of one of the proposed camps around the Baker Lake area. The Eighth Legislative Assembly remained silent.

While I will have more to say about the future relationship between ITC and the current Legislative Assembly in a few moments, I would like to suggest that this Assembly demonstrate a positive commitment to the defence of aboriginal rights by assisting the ITC and the hamlet of Baker Lake to pay for the large legal bills incurred in recent court battles. Many of these bills are still outstanding.

Past Indifference Of Government Of The N.W.T.

The past indifference of the Government of the Northwest Territories have gone beyond an unwillingness to support a slowdown or postponement of development prior to the settlement of land claims. The Government of the Northwest Territories has neglected to demand that any development on land subject to aboriginal title bring direct and significant economic benefits to aboriginal title holders. Partly as a result of this silence, various development proposals have gone forward in Nunavut without any of the necessary provisions to ensure benefits to the Inuit; the Manpower training programs, employment level guarantees, compensation for lost wildlife etc. It is true that the federal government has often been adverse to consulting with either Inuit organizations or the Government of the Northwest Territories over various non-renewable resource projects. This fact alone does not justify the lack of action on the part of the Government of the Northwest Territories. A government that claims to represent the people of Nunavut should do everything in its power to articulate and defend their interests.

I turn now to the question of political change. When the people of Nunavut seek to criticize the inadequacies of government, they focus their criticism on Ottawa and Yellowknife. This, of course, very seldom entails criticism of the individuals who formulate policy in Ottawa and Yellowknife. The motives of the people involved are not questioned. Rather, the criticism goes to the location and structure of the government institutions in which these people work.

Criticism Of Federal Government An Enduring Feature Of Canadian Federalism

Criticism of Ottawa is not a pastime confined to the people of Nunavut. Southern Canadians, as well as other northerners, indulge in this popular sport. While the very visible federal role in the North, a role that all here today would agree is sometimes heavy-handed, may make Ottawa a somewhat more popular target in the North than elsewhere, regional grumbling over the policies of the central government is an enduring feature of Canadian federalism. This kind of grumbling is not always a bad thing; it helps to bring about compromises over the conflicting interests of well-defined regional groupings of Canadians. Criticism of Ottawa is entirely consistent with strong attachment to the Canadian confederation.

The criticism reserved for Yellowknife by the people of Nunavut is of a different order. I will not go into detail as to all the factors that have contributed to the alienation from Yellowknife that is felt by the Inuit and non-Inuit residents of Nunavut. Any list of factors would include and go beyond the following; physical remoteness, climate, landscape, economy, language, culture, history and dissatisfaction with the quality of government services.

It is sufficient to say that the people of Nunavut do not identify with the Government of the Northwest Territories or its capital in the way that other Canadians have developed collective loyalties to the provincial units in which they live. When all is said and done political allegiance is a matter of the heart. The people of Nunavut feel and value an allegiance to Canada. The people of Nunavut hope to bring about the creation of the Nunavut government that will similarly encompass and express their loyalties at the territorial and some day provincial level. Let no one think that the concept of Nunavut has been brewed up in the kitchens of ITC.

Awareness Of Distinct Nature Of Community North Of Tree Line

Awareness of the distinct nature of the community living north of the tree line is as old as the aboriginal people of Nunavut, 4000 years old and still kicking and let no one think that attachment to the concept of Nunavut demonstrates a desire to create some kind of giant ethnic reserve in the North. Inuit are acutely aware of the problems that the reserve system has given the aboriginal

peoples of southern Canada and are determined to avoid them. Nunavut will be a home for all its citizens. Nunavut government will be able to speak for its citizens within the flexible context of Canadian federalism. I will not review with you today the details of a Nunavut government as I mentioned before. Much work has been done, much work remains to be done. ITC does not claim to have all the answers down pat. ITC does, however, have a commitment to Nunavut that, drawing inspiration from the people of Nunavut, has weathered the political storms of the last several years. I hope the storms subside. The commitment will remain regardless.

As promised, I have been open and frank about the unhappiness of ITC with the actions of Legislative Assemblies in the past. If criticism is in order, however, then so too is praise. ITC and the people of Nunavut have been heartened by the work of the Ninth Legislative Assembly to this point. In turning aside a rigid route of political change mapped out by the previous Assembly, this Assembly has shown sensitivity to the special presence of aboriginal peoples and realization of the need for a broader analysis of political options available. It has also shown pretty good common sense. In creating a committee on unity this Assembly has recognized that political change should proceed only after thorough consultation and whenever possible on the basis of broad consensus. In searching to develop policies that concede the connections among the matters of aboriginal rights, land claims and political change, this Assembly has displayed considerable maturity of thought and boldness of purpose.

Political Change Is Coming

I would in particular like to take this occasion to congratulate the members of the Nunavut caucus for their efforts and achievements. So much for compliments. Where do we go from here? It is obvious to everyone in the North that political change is coming. We will undoubtedly be treated to thunder and fireworks before the direction of change is determined but the fact of change is unavoidable. After debate develops, ITC hopes to maintain communication with this forum as well as the others available to it, in order to make its commitment to Nunavut known. While communications on a regular basis will take place with the Members of the Executive Committee and the committee on unity, it is hoped that further opportunities will arise to address the Assembly as a whole. ITC, of course, will be prepared to assist in discussion of its paper "Political Development in Nunavut" in any way it is able to do so. I would like to add a word of caution. Connections among the matters of aboriginal rights, land claims and political change are now widely accepted. The determination to secure recognition of the importance of these connections led ITC to adopt and maintain a hard position over some very difficult years. No land claims settlement without political change.

ITC is preparing to commence serious land claims negotiations in the summer of this year. ITC is willing to enter into such negotiations without a prior federal government commitment to the creation of Nunavut. At the same time ITC has indicated its determination to make certain assumptions about Nunavut for the course of the negotiations.

Five Actions For Assembly To Consider

It is the hope of ITC that this Legislative Assembly will consider five actions in order to assist the resumption of land claims negotiations and to enhance the likelihood of their successful completion. First, ITC suggests that the Assembly support the making of certain assumptions by ITC about the creation of Nunavut throughout negotiations, even if the Legislative Assembly prefers to reserve its final position on Nunavut to a later date. Secondly, ITC suggests that the Assembly consult closely with the native organizations responsible for the negotiation of land claims in devising any timetable for the definition of its position on political change. Thirdly, ITC suggests that the Assembly indicate to the federal government that no further legislative or administrative powers should be transferred from Ottawa until the direction of political change has been decided. Fourthly, ITC suggests that the Assembly direct all Government of the Northwest Territories employees to maintain a neutral position on the question of political development while carrying out their duties. Finally, ITC suggests that the Assembly take initial steps to transfer control of wildlife management to the people of Nunavut. ITC hopes that the Commissioner will also maintain a neutral stance, at least until the federal government has publicly stated its policy outlook.

Before closing I would like to point out that my colleagues and I will be in Yellowknife until Sunday. I personally will be here until Monday. We would welcome the chance of meeting with all or any of you informally over the next couple of days or, if you prefer, we would be prepared, as we stated earlier, to answer any informal questions if you so desire. Thank you for your attention.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Suluk. Mr. Patterson.

Mistakes Of Government And Previous Assemblies

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity briefly to reply to Mr. Suluk and give a somewhat off-the-cuff reaction to his proposals. First of all a lot of the things that he said particularly about mistakes made by previous territorial Assemblies and perhaps mistakes made by this government until, of course, we were elected, rang true to me. I remember particularly having some involvement in the Baker Lake court case when it was in the discussion stages when the people of Baker Lake were looking desperately for moral and financial support in the tremendous struggle of confronting not only the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs but the international mining interests.

I remember perhaps somewhat naively remarking to people who worked for the council in Baker Lake that the territorial government should be providing you with resources. Their legal department should be at your service helping you defend your interests. The Department of Local Government should be there assisting and aiding you in what was essentially an action taken by the local government of Baker Lake. In fact, in my own amateurish way, I attempted to persuade government officials that they should help. I was told by legal advisers that I was naive because, of course, how could the Government of the Northwest Territories in effect aid a suit against its own master, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs? How could the Government of the Northwest Territories in effect sue itself or help to sue itself? Local Government also seemed very concerned that moneys which were given to the hamlet council might be misspent on such an unusual investment as hiring a lawyer to protect one's aboriginal rights.

Moneys were available for water trucks and fire trucks and certain well known categories of municipal budgets, but not for such an unorthodox matter as hiring a legal adviser to protect, of all things, aboriginal rights. This was something that the Government of the Northwest Territories seemed to be frightened to get involved with and I thought that it would not have been inconsistent with the mandates of the Department of Local Government as I had heard them, to get in there and provide aid and support and encouragement but in fact the reaction seemed to be the opposite.

Recognition Of Concept Of Aboriginal Rights

I only raised that, Mr. Chairman, as an example of my belief that the Government of the Northwest Territories, beginning with this Assembly, has a history to reconsider in terms of its past attitudes towards these questions. I am pleased that the Minister of Local Government in recently tabling Sessional Paper 1-80(1): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, suggested that we recognize the concept of aboriginal rights. I think we should go further. I think we should recognize and defend the concept. I think that if the hamlet of Baker Lake is broke because of their expensive and heroic litigation which I think has made history, there is no reason why we should not be willing to help in some way.

As for the five points suggested by Mr. Suluk, which I jotted down rather quickly, I think we have already made some progress in that direction. Certainly we have, I think, through the unity committee resolved to consult closely with native organizations and make sure that our timetable for any positions we take on political development accords with your timetable in negotiations with the federal government. I think basically that we have also taken the position in abandoning the previous position paper, or previous policy paper on land claims shows that we want to stand back a bit and recognize that perhaps our noses have been poked a little too far into the negotiating rooms, and perhaps it has caused serious problems. More importantly that the people of the Northwest Territories and perhaps this Assembly do not trust and should not expect mere bureaucrats to represent the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories in these sort of negotiations. I think also the paper of Mr. Wah-Shee, which I know has yet to be discussed, seems to recognize that elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories should be involved, if anyone is to be involved at all. So, we are sympathetic to those concerns, Mr. Chairman, and I am also sympathetic to the other points raised by Mr. Suluk.

Tremendous Challenge In Present Areas Of Responsibility

I am not upset about the prospect of not receiving any further powers from Ottawa, mainly because I think we have got our plate full already. I think we have got some tremendous challenges in the areas we do have responsibility for, and of course we are discussing the most challenging area of education and preservation of native languages in our deliberations this week and next week. We have already resolved that steps should be taken to devolve wildlife management responsibilities to the people. I think many of the Members of this Assembly recognize that the only way wildlife management can ever work in the Northwest Territories with good will and the sort of co-operation and mutual trust that is required is if the responsibility is given to the people. If it is recognized that they are more concerned with the preservation of their natural renewable resources than anybody else, and therefore have a right, if not a duty, to take over major responsibilities for wildlife management, building into that a trusting relationship with expertise that can be provided by biologists and the like. I think that even in this session we will find, Mr. Chairman, that significant initiatives will be taken to move in the direction of devolution of wildlife management to the people of Nunavut. I think that is a challenge, Mr. Chairman, thrown to us by Mr. Suluk that many of us are willing to promote and encourage, including our Minister of Renewable Resources.

Prejudices Should Not Interfere With Duties Of Civil Servants

So, we will undoubtedly have a chance to consider your proposals in detail. I find no difficulty at all with directing employees of the Northwest Territories government to be neutral while carrying out their duties. We do not want to prevent them from having opinions about political development in the Northwest Territories. Some of us in fact, feel that their rights to participate in elections are already too severely restricted by government but the important point you are making, or Mr. Suluk was making, Mr. Chairman, was that they should not allow their prejudices to interfere with the way in which they carry out their duties as territorial civil servants, as people who work in the Department of Local Government, people who work in the Department of Education, and people at all levels who are in a position to influence other people.

My feeling about that, of course, Mr. Chairman, is that that works both ways. There are a lot of civil servants who I know are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Nunavut. So, I presume, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Suluk wants those people to cool down a bit too, and I think while they are doing their duties as territorial civil servants, they should cool down as well, without interfering with the political freedoms after five, if you like. I am also very interested in your assertion that we have a responsibility to avoid what you call the erosion of aboriginal rights and interests.

I note that this government, or I understand that this government has been given responsibility by the federal government for negotiating the socio-economic impact aspect of the Arvik mine development. We had, I think it is fair to say, no say, as did ITC have no say, in the decision to develop the mine in the first place and that perhaps may explain why we have two opposition members in the House of Commons from both Nunatsiak and the Western Arctic in the Northwest Territories. Nonetheless this government has been given the responsibility for looking after the socio-economic conditions that might be attached by agreement to that project. I think this is a challenge we should take most seriously, especially in view of the very clear expressions of concern of ITC about the impact of that development on aboriginal rights and interests in the Northwest Territories.

New Attitude On Part Of ITC

So, in summary, I wish to say that I am pleased that there is a new attitude existing on the part of ITC. I suggest on the part of this government that there is a way in which we can start working more closely and co-operatively together, that perhaps we are headed in the same direction, and that I look forward to co-operating with ITC and my colleagues, both from the Nunavut caucus and this Assembly towards maximizing our resources and protecting our interests. I think for a long time land claims has been seen as a threat. In fact land claims, if this Assembly could view it in the right way, is the best thing we have going for us. Land claims is I think one of the only vehicles by which the Northwest Territories might ever achieve the independence and autonomy that we all seem to believe in. I think it is time that we recognize that the aboriginal peoples are one of our biggest resources and our biggest allies in maximizing opportunities for all residents of the Northwest Territories. That is how I hoped to work on this Assembly and in close co-operation with ITC, and I thank you again for coming here and I hope that this is just the beginning of a much improved communication and trust in future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Being a deputy chairman of the committee of the whole yourself, you used up half an hour in your ten minutes. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As chairman of the special committee on unity, I will take this opportunity to underline once again that it is a committee on unity and not a committee for unity. In other words, we do not presuppose that the final right answer is a unified territory but we want to examine that proposition as thoroughly as we can. As chairman of that committee on unity I will have plenty of opportunity to discuss with Mr. Suluk and his colleagues some of the matters he has raised today, some of the matters that are in the political development paper, Nunavut. Consequently I will not take the time of this Assembly to question today but I can only say that I feel privileged to have been here and to have listened to a clear and eloquent call by a people for a government which truly satisfies its needs and aspirations to the extent to which such satisfaction is humanly possible to attain.

Challenge Clearly On The Assembly

The challenge then is clearly on this Assembly, and on this government to be able to do that. We must be able to demonstrate that it is to the advantage of the people of the Eastern Arctic, economic advantage, political advantage, social advantage, whatever, the total balance, we must be able to demonstrate to these people that it is to their advantage to remain associated with all of the other peoples of the Northwest Territories in a political jurisdiction.

If we are not able to do that effectively, then I would have to agree that consistent with the principles of democracy, with the principles of fundamental morality, that we ought then to relinquish power over the people of the Eastern Arctic. It will be the strong and serious duty of all people who are touched by this problem in any way to investigate it thoroughly and exhaustively and try, to the best of all our abilities to come to solutions which are fair and just and finally agreed to by all of the people of the Northwest Territories as being in the best interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Wah-Shee.

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I just wanted to respond by saying that it is really a welcome change to hear an address by one of the major native organizations in the Northwest Territories, and that the five points that were raised, it is certainly in order for discussion when the sessional paper is discussed some time next week. Ourselves, we have been thinking about making changes in our attitudes as Members of the Assembly, and also we are looking forward to a new mandate from the Legislative Assembly, and I certainly would like to say that we would like to discuss all areas and matters that do relate to aboriginal rights and the constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I am very impressed with the good presentation that the Members of the ITC have given, and I certainly encourage you in your attempts to get Nunavut. My reaction to this whole idea of the Inuit having Nunavut is, who am I to stand in your way as a Metis and as a representative of the Dene people of the Mackenzie Valley. Who am I to stand in your way?

Views Of Past Assembly Gone

In this regard I really encourage you to go all the way and go hard at it. As far as your feelings about the past Assembly, I would like to think anyway that we have dealt with the position of the last Assembly. We came in here this fall and we were all elected and many of the people who were on the past Assembly were not back here with us. I would like to think that those of us who are elected better represent the people and since we have been an Assembly we have thrown out their position on constitutional development and their position on aboriginal claims so I do not think I need to say anything more. We have dealt with the past Assembly. They are gone and finished. Their views are no longer ours.

I think that Inuit people in the last few years, despite this territorial government, have made lots of progress and in terms of language the Inuit seem to have done much better than the Dene people in our part of the North. You have CBC radio and I understand in places like the Keewatin and also in Frobisher Bay most of the CBC programming is in the Inuit language. In this part of the North even sometimes we see your programs, I think half an hour or two half hours a week in the Inuit language. That is really good. For our part we have nothing. There is not one minute of Slavey language, Dene language on the CBC a week, a month, a year -- nothing. You know, you are certainly doing much better than we.

As far as education goes, we just started talking about education yesterday and the matter of the Dene languages in the schools, trying to promote and enhance it. There have been some attempts made, but because it is so hard to make any changes I sometimes even feel that it is hardly any use trying. What is the use? You have a big government set-up and it is mostly white people and sometimes I even feel the present Minister of Education is not that sympathetic. You sometimes feel like what is the use of trying anyway? You might as well give them all the money they want, you know. But I decided anyway yesterday to give it one more last try and see what happens so we will be concentrating on that in the next few days and weeks.

---Applause

Inuit Progress In Local Government

As far as Local Government goes, again the Inuit people seem to have done pretty well. You do not have the problem that we have in our part where we have band councils and that was the body that native people, Dene people, had as their kind of government. Since the territorial government has come in in the last five, ten, 15 years the territorial government has actually tried to put down the band councils so there have been lots of problems and in this area you seem to have done better. You even got the Baffin Regional Council and we have nothing of that sort, so it seems that you have made more progress than we have in our part.

In our part of the North you know, of course, there are more white people and maybe this is part of the problem. It seems that in our part of the North there is more interest by southern people in going into our part of the North. The Mackenzie Valley is kind of like northern Alberta or northern British Columbia.

It is not very much different from the South so I guess southern Canadians see it as an area where they could go into. In the Arctic it seems things are different and I take it that there is not as much interest by southern people to go into the Arctic. If they do, it seems they want to do it in comfort, in great comfort. There is talk of Polaris mine being developed up in the Arctic and they want to do it in southern comfort and I understand they are planning to do a lot of the work under a large structure like a large canopy or bulb over them so they can do the work in pretty nice comfort.

Now as far as the five things that you mentioned that you would like this Legislative Assembly to do, I do not see any problem with any of them. On the second point, the unity committee has been set up and it has I think, pretty good people on it. We have Tagak Curley who, as you know, I am sure is quite familiar with ITC and I support the Dene Nation and I am on it and so is Robert Sayine. So you have people I think on there who are quite sympathetic so it is not like trying to convince the white people or trying to deal with -- it is not a group that is unsympathetic so we really hope that we can learn lots from you and that we can work closely together.

On the third point that you do not want the federal government to give any more powers to this Assembly, I really support that because I think that we are not even doing a very good job with the powers that we have. There are so many changes that have to be made before people are really satisfied with this government that we have no business asking for any more powers from the federal government so I do not think you need to worry there is going to be any more power. I will certainly resist that and I think lots of people on this Assembly think the same way.

Control Of Wildlife By Native People

As far as the fourth point I do not think there is any problem about that. As far as the fifth point where you say you want to have the Assembly taking initial steps to transfer control of wildlife, we have started some work on this. I have been working a bit with Dennis Patterson and a few other Members and we are going to make a motion I think later this session. We are going to make a motion asking that the territorial government begin plans to transfer wildlife to native people in the North, Inuit and Dene people, so it will be a start. My thinking is that once the motion, if it does pass, then the department has until next fall to come up with a paper and maybe next fall we will be able to discuss the way in which the wildlife can be transferred to people. I think that it is going to happen anyway in land claims so it is about time that the matter of wildlife is transferred to native people. It is one area that is close to people and so it is an area that I think should and could easily be given to native people. So these are all my comments. I really am glad that you are here and we wish to encourage you and would like you to think anyway that you have some friends and some supporters in this Assembly.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Fraser. Brief.

Support For Government And Past Assemblies

MR. FRASER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly, first of all I would like to welcome the ITC to this Assembly and this well prepared document. I am sure a lot of time and work went into this document. To me it is very well prepared. I would like to speak briefly, Mr. Chairman, in support of the territorial government. We keep hearing, it keeps coming back that the territorial government has been in power for ten or 15 years and never done anything. I for one would like to support the territorial government. My colleague mentioned that they had never done anything but ten or 15 years ago he was not a lawyer. Today he is so they must have recognized him some time or other. The past Assembly has been run down and run into the ground. As

far as the past Assembly is concerned I do not think any of us ever did get up and speak against land claims. As a matter of fact we were very sympathetic with any land claim document that came before this House and almost everyone who got up to speak to reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address mentioned the support of land claims. So if they have been reading their papers at all they would find out that the past Assembly was definitely in support of any land claims or any document that came before this House. We were sure not in disagreement with it. If we did not do anything it was not because we did not try. With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, again I would like to thank the ITC for this fine document that was presented to us today. Thank you.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): We thank you, Mr. Fraser. We will now break for tea break and come back in 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come back to order. Is it the Members' wish to continue general discussion with ITC?

---Agreed

Any further general comments or questions? Hon. Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: No, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Evaluarjuk.

MR. EVALUARJUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, thank you. I do not have a big question or a big comment to make, but I think Mr. Suluk is going to understand me. I am very happy that you have been able to come here today. Also I would like you to know that we are not criticizing the land claims issue and the comments you made were very impressive. I have forgotten what you said exactly, some of it. I would like to make a small comment. I have always heard that the Legislative Assembly did not really -- I am not saying I did not like your comments, but I would like to be able to say that it has always been expressed that the Eighth Assembly did not do a very good job. That is true. I am not getting mad about it. If you want to talk about anything, you are able to comment on whatever, but we have always tried, the Eighth Assembly always tried to -- we know some of the Members of the Assembly do not support -- they all say that this part of the battle is not helping.

Members Should Help, Not Criticize Each Other

I am not saying I am in support of our Assembly, but I have always said we are Members of the Legislative Assembly and I would like to see the House not criticizing each other but trying to help each other. I have always expressed this and I would like to see it. We have always invited the ITC delegates but they have refused to come at a previous time but I am happy that the people from ITC have come here today and we can work together with them.

I would like to make another comment. I would like, maybe I do not understand this, but to get the territorial government to participate with the Nunavut people, land claims. Being in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories I wonder if we could participate in the land claims process. That is what I would like to understand.

Also we believe in the support of our constituency. If we are going to criticize each other, the Legislative Assembly and ITC, the people who have voted for us, we have to make them count too. The process of having to work together is going to be very hard if we keep criticizing each other. I do not quite understand if we are not going to participate, that the federal government and the Legislative Assembly are not going to participate in the land claims. I do not really understand this, but we could start from the bottom and maybe in this way we could help each other and they could believe in our support.

ITC And Co-ops Might Solve Problems

Also, it was not mentioned but I would like to make a comment on this, perhaps this could be answered or perhaps I could just comment on it, but here in the Northwest Territories they have a co-op federation, owned by the people. Maybe in future, maybe there might be problems coming up, and perhaps with the co-ops in Quebec, if there has been a problem, I feel the co-op federation of the Northwest Territories and the land claims people in the ITC, might solve the problems. It could, of course, create problems later on because in another way they might try and take away the powers of the co-op. We know there is going to be a problem and much criticism later on and I would like that resolved. I am not criticising in the case of the Inuit people involved, say, in the co-ops and in ITC, but I just do not want any problems created in the future and I would like those problems to be resolved. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): (Translation) Would you like to answer that, Mr. Suluk?

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to answer this in Inuktitut, Mark Evaluarjuk's question. And the questions I was asked in English, I will answer them in English after. (Translation) On the comments he has made, I have thought about what he commented on previously but I was not the director of the ITC land claims negotiations, now I am also a member of the board. I would just like to say that ITC would like to work much more co-operatively with the Legislative Assembly and those who are new Members. We have never tried to criticize this present Assembly and now I am happy that we have taken this approach. I also remember the comments you have made, Mr. Evaluarjuk, previously in 1977 here when I was working for the CBC. I had them aired over the radio since you were speaking for the Inuit more so it seems than some members. Although we had in the past, criticized the Assembly excessively, it was warranted. I said previously here in the House that I do not want you to think that the previous Assembly's policies were not just all bad, but if at all possible, I would like to work with this Assembly in a much better way. But, you must know, that even though I am one of the directors, I cannot guarantee that we will always be co-operative. Even if I wanted to co-operate in any way possible the overall decision of the board must be followed.

Assembly Should Be Involved In Negotiations

Also, the Legislative Assembly is elected by the people of the Northwest Territories and I do not want to criticize them. As a tradition, we do not criticize the individual Members. Perhaps it is part of my job because we always criticize at times because that is the way it is. Sometimes that is the only way. I would like to say we were very happy and we thought that the territorial government could be involved in some future discussions and we also thought that Mark Evaluarjuk or anybody else elected to the Assembly should be involved in the negotiations, not just the employees of the government if they are to be involved. We thought that that was better.

I would like to tell you, all of you, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, we do not want to criticize in a big way the way the Assembly is set up, but this is a concern of the people because they want to do things their own way and that is why we have always expressed a concern to the territorial government being involved. Now, I would like to talk in English now to Dennis Patterson and to the others. (End of translation)

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to make a few preliminary remarks to the replies made by Dennis Patterson and a few others. First of all I would like to point out that we in ITC and in land claims and in the regions have a lot more reason to expect a closer working relationship with this present Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. However, there will be times when we would have no choice but to speak, at times, because of our jobs, to speak against some policies of either the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly or of the territorial government. However, we would like you to know that, as we stated in our presentation, we do not normally direct them to individuals in the Assembly or in government, or in the federal government, because it is not the way of the Inuit to oppose any person for the sake of opposing him.

Also, I would like to say at this time, to express my feeling that although in the future, in the near future, we may disagree with each other, however we in ITC, including myself, have a lot more optimism in believing that we will be able to work together. I am encouraged by the fact that, although as Mr. Evaluarjuk stated, we seem to refer to the past actions of Assemblies, as something that we would rather like to forget. However, the disagreement with the past Assemblies we referred to were only concerning their stand about, say, to our mind, the legitimate political aspirations of the Inuit of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): (Translation) Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Request For Translated Document

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I would like to ask the ITC representatives about some problems concerning the ITC. In our community there have been two documents presented at one time; one was in Inuktitut and one document is only written in English. It would be so much easier if the other one could be written in Inuktitut. If the translator is not working and the document comes in, sometimes they cannot be translated. I would also like to come to an agreement or support the land claims and I would like to receive an Inuktitut copy of the document. That is about all. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): (Translation) Mr. Suluk, could you please slow down when you are speaking in Inuktitut?

Lack Of Money For Interpreting

MR. SULUK: I would like to reply Mr. Arlooktoo's comments about the translation of the document made by ITC. I would like to reply. (Translation) ITC are short of money and they cannot look for more money and our translators and interpreters have to be paid by the ITC. We would like to apologize for giving you only an English copy but we cannot always translate into Inuktitut because of lack of money. I realize there are interpreters present during this Assembly but we do not have such things as interpreters in our office. Sometimes I have to interpret because of lack of money in ITC, but will keep looking into this problem. At the moment our budget limits us. I wish we could afford interpreters of the kind the Government of the Northwest Territories have. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. McCallum.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would just want to comment very briefly and indicate on my part that I, as well as other Members, are very pleased to see and hear the gentleman from ITC, to hear the very informed and articulate paper that was presented. It does not surprise me that it is that kind of a paper in the least.

I do not want to go into what past Houses or Legislative Assemblies have done in terms of putting forth views, and I do not specifically refer just to today's but to the Seventh, Sixth, whatever. I think one thing that Members, Mr. Chairman, should recognize, the one thing I believe the Eighth Assembly did do was to promote a consensus among members, a consensus as never before done. I would hope that we as Members of the Ninth Assembly will be able to say the same thing, that we have come to some consensus on particular issues.

Now, I do not believe at all that "land claims", that term has been understood. Now, there is no misunderstanding. I recognize the paragraph that was read to us about the word of caution regarding the connection among matters of aboriginal rights, land claims and political change now being widely accepted and the determination to secure recognition of the importance of those connections. So, ITC have now after a number of difficult years made this statement, "No land claims settlement without political change." I believe that that is what has occurred here as well, that after particular years of difficulty, that we, as well, recognize the two go hand in hand and we have said that.

There is a concern I think expressed by a number of people. There is a point of interest as to what political change really is, what the definition is, what is the intent, the implications? Lest I be misunderstood I, too, am very much concerned with political change and I think that all Members want some kind of political change, the direction, the kind of political change, that will have to be worked out. I believe that we have, as an Assembly, indicated that these two terms do belong together.

Aboriginal Rights Should Be Settled By Negotiation

I am not sure whether at this particular point I would want, as Mr. Sibbeston, the Member from Mackenzie Liard has indicated, concurrence with the suggestions. I think by and large that I do, but I think that will come later in the discussion over your five suggestions. I believe that this government has a role to play in the negotiation of the land claims. I have said that before. I say it again. I believe that the connections between aboriginal rights, land claims and political change are vital issues that concern this House in general and a number in particular. I believe, as past Houses have believed, that aboriginal rights should be negotiated and not settled by law. I believe that is what is being said, that you want to negotiate those things.

So, Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to have heard from the gentlemen from ITC. I share in the optimism that I believe permeates this particular meeting, this committee meeting and I think shared by most people, if not all, within the Assembly itself. I look forward to continued discussions with members of ITC as well as with members from other native organizations and with people from all across the Territories on this total concept of political change. I am sure that the work of the Members who are here now and the review of that work in the next four years will indicate that this particular House, as did Houses in the past, tried to come to grips with the situation that, on both sides, was not entirely understood but at no time was totally, and with malice, misunderstood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Mr. Pudluk.

---Applause

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also very happy for ITC officials being here. I think this is the first time that we are able to negotiate with the ITC officials. For this reason I am very happy. In the future I hope we can meet again. We know for sure in the future we are going to have to work together even harder, especially to write the constitutional form for land claims, government development and with a special representative to the Prime Minister. I would like to say that in the future we are going to have to work together even harder. I would also like to express the time I was on territorial Assembly in the past, the Eighth Assembly; I was on the Assembly for four years. I would like to say, as I have repeatedly said, that we should help each other.

Everyone Makes Mistakes

I am going to use last years Assembly as an example. We had a problem at the time I was on the Eighth Assembly. Through our responsibilities we have been trying to look at the problems we had. I said this before, that we have been trying to follow the track but we seem to be going slower. I would like to say that we do understand these things and are beginning to consider them. We know that we all make mistakes but we make mistakes, also we have a very difficult task here and I know that you have a very difficult task also. If we could get together again face to face I do not think we should think of the mistakes we will have in the future.

I know this document will be seen around the North, I know it is going to be read by a lot of people but I do not want to be told that I do not support land claims and ITC in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. I have never said that I do not support land claims. Lastly, I would like to say that the ITC officials from the Assembly also made some mistakes.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. Mr. Suluk.

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a few remarks to Mr. Pudluk in Inuktitut. (Translation) I would like to make a short reply to Ludy Pudluk concerning ITC's role and responsibilities, especially toward the commission we had last year. First of all, when we first established the ITC we made a lot of mistakes. We also did the same thing when we established the commission and worked for the commission in the past. I did not like to criticize the authorities of the past. ITC has abolished the commission because they were not in favour of what they were doing.

At the moment we have considered approaching the commission on the land claims settlement in a different way. For example, I think right now ITC and the communities will not be able to settle anything right away if they work at it too fast. I do not want to make any problems by saying that the Eighth Legislative Assembly or any Legislative Assembly before that was not working well together, but there is really no disagreement now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I would like to welcome our Member back from the Keewatin, Mr. Curley.

Information Is Appreciated

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you very much. I would like to apologize that we came in quite late but we really enjoyed our stay in the Keewatin also. I was able to talk to Thomas Suluk for a short while and I never heard what he was talking about before. I am very happy that the ITC representatives can come and talk with the Legislative Assembly. I think it is known that much has been discussed here in Yellowknife and it is not given out to people or people are not informed about it too much, but I am very happy that you came here to inform us so the people can be informed about the discussions here.

I do not want to talk too long, but I would like to ask a couple of questions. This land claims settlement has been worked on for so long, but the Legislative Assembly is right now. But perhaps I would like to ask -- the Eighth Legislative Assembly would also have liked to settle this and Tom Butters mentioned before that we had talked about this problem. It is not only the government.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Excuse me, Mr. Curley. The interpreter cannot hear you.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) In the North they wanted to start. It is evident that this shows there were obviously obstructions for land claims. We would also like to have land claims and I know how George Braden thinks on this. I believe he is the Minister responsible for tourism and if there is to be a travel industry association mentioned in the conference in the Keewatin, the tourism camps will surely be owned by Americans. It was mentioned that if there was to be a settlement of land claims, the outpost camps, the camps in the Keewatin should be owned solely by the Inuit and the travel industry should put pressure on Economic Development and Tourism. I would like to know, I am asking you how would you feel about this in terms of proceeding with the development of land claims? The Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuit from the East, they are very weak and have expressed they have no desire to go on the Executive Committee, a ministerial post. I would like to ask you would it be better if the Eastern Arctic caucus joined the Nunavut government if it was so established? Those are the questions I am asking and I would like to get an answer.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Suluk.

Control Of Tourist Camps

MR. SULUK: (Translation) I will answer the first question that Mr. Curley asked. I will give the second question to the person on my right or to Allen Maghagak, if it is understood. The first question on the tourist camps; they are run by outsiders or investors or the industrial exploration people. In that regard we know that the government has stated that, if we are to have a settlement of land claims, those of us who already have camps in the Territories, where oil exploration starts with permits, we start to stake claims. These cannot be removed as stated by the federal government. We have expressed concern that we should be able to stake claims and run tourist camps. We would not even consider touching them. These are prime examples of things we should have controlled ourselves. These are some of the things we should control ourselves and they are being run by other than Inuit. We would like to control, as such, tourist camps. We would like to run them ourselves for economic reasons. If we had economics through the settlement of land claims we would certainly want to get involved with this.

It will be very difficult to try and control the oil rights that are claimed and I think it is now impossible to even try and remove them from this base. This is oil stake claims. We also know the price of gold is very high and the government has stated for those who have already staked claims they should not be forced to abandon or give up their rights on these claims. I am saying that we are not totally against this, and if you have any further questions now I would like the second part of the answer presented.

MR. MERRITT: I am not sure that I caught the entire question, but if it did relate to how the Nunavut councillors should see themselves in this Assembly, I would suggest that it might be compatible with the aims of ITC if the Nunavut Members tried to speak in part for the interests of a Nunavut government, in the event that a Nunavut government does come about. On the issue of whether or not to join the Executive Committee, I think it is fair to say that ITC has not adopted a position on that. I think that that, in large measure, would depend upon whether the Members from Nunavut thought they could achieve more by staying outside the process and trying to put themselves in the place of a future Nunavut government, or would prefer to join the Executive Committee and carry out their work that way. Did I answer your question at least in part, Mr. Curley?

MR. CURLEY: Yes, I think so. I just wondered if my question was general enough, if ITC had taken a position, I was just trying to get some response from you and I think it is clear enough, to my question anyway.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Nerysoo.

No Statement Of Support For Dene Nation

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes, I guess I have somewhat delayed some of the criticism I am going to give now in that, as a Dene sitting on this Assembly I have not heard in your statement any kind of support at all for the Dene Nation and its existence. It is a good thing you are happy with the north of the tree line caucus, however I have also been somewhat unhappy that they too, have not supported the Dene Nation and they have not supported in principle, the Dene government. During my first, I guess, speech in this House, that was one of the first issues I raised; that was to support Nunavut and a Nunavut government in principle. I think that it is a very important element in trying to have the Inuit, the Dene, begin to support one another that we have in fact, the same objectives. We have the same concerns with regard to aboriginal rights. I think it is a very, very important thing to make known to people.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): (Translation) Mr. Suluk.

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the ITC supporting the Dene Nation, I would have to say that we felt that it is not our business to say something either in support or in opposition to the Dene Nation or their objectives. We do not feel sufficiently knowledgeable in our part of the world to say how the Dene Nation should get their land claims or get their aims reached.

Official Permission From Dene Nation Needed

However, we have talked in the past regularly and had some good discussions with the president of the Dene Nation, Georges Erasmus, and we have absolutely no disagreement. However, I do not feel that I have the mandate from my board of directors, of which I am a part, to disclose any specific things publicly at this time without being asked officially by the Dene Nation. However, I should like to point out that we do support the Dene Nation. It is just that we are not quite sure whether the Dene people would like it too much if we said something publicly without the expressed permission or without the expressed wish for direction from the Dene Nation. Therefore, I would like to reply to you that the fact that we have not come out publicly does not mean that we do not support your proposals, or what the Dene people are trying to do, it is just that we do not feel competent at this time to try and, to use a bad term, to meddle in your affairs for the fear of being accused of interfering in other people's affairs. So, that is the only reason why we have at this time, why we have been quiet about the Dene Nation. But, whenever Georges Erasmus is passing through Ottawa, we always get together. Unfortunately, I do not feel that I can disclose any information at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Suluk. Is there any further discussion or comments or questions? Mr. Patterson.

MR. PATTERSON: Just briefly, if I may, Mr. Chairman. I would like to explain why perhaps I have not taken a stronger position of support of the Dene people as the Hon. Mr. Nerysoo seems to think some Members have neglected doing. I feel strongly that when we are speaking about aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories it goes without saying that the aboriginal rights of the Inuit are to be considered along with the aboriginal rights of the other aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories, including all the Dene people and their descendants.

I am anxious, as I said in my reply to the Commissioner's Address in the fall, to find out what the Dene position is and where they see themselves fitting into the political future of the Northwest Territories; whether they feel in any way threatened by the Nunavut proposal and, if so, what can be done to support and accommodate their vision of their place in the future political development of the Northwest Territories.

Need For Discussion With Dene Nation

I think Mr. Nerysoo's remarks point out the need for a very similar discussion such as we are having now with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, with the Dene Nation. I hope as soon as possible, and perhaps in this session if it is possible, if we have time, the leaders of the Dene Nation can come forward and enlighten me as to what place they see in the future and what their definition of self-determination really means in terms of the next ten or 15 years of political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. I am supportive, I would like to find out more about what the Dene position is though, and I am pleased that the unity committee and this Assembly are very interested in learning about their views. I am quite ignorant I must confess. I am ignorant of the West and maybe it is obvious in some of the remarks I make, but it certainly does not mean that I am not supportive of the legitimate interests of all aboriginal peoples in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would wish to join with other Members of the Assembly and extend a thanks to Mr. Suluk's delegation for taking the time to come to Yellowknife. It is an investment of many days out of their very busy schedule, and I think their appearance here has been valuable to us all. I compliment Mr. Suluk on the very effective manner in which the position of ITC was put before us. I do have a number or a couple of questions which I would like to ask and possibly if Mr. Suluk feels he could answer or would wish to answer, he might do so.

I support what he says about frank discussion. I think that frank discussion is one thing that has really not occurred among, or between, the people of the Territories. I do not suggest this as a criticism in any way of ITC because I feel that ITC has been very open and very communicative with regard to its objectives, its goals and its aspirations, and the appearance of senior members of that organization before this House today underlines that willingness.

Excellent Beginning For Continuing Dialogue

I think it is important that such discussions should occur in some forum in the Territories and I do believe that this is as good a forum as any. Representatives of all interests are here, the press is here with its ability to communicate what is said in this House in many of the languages and dialects of these Territories. I think this is an excellent beginning possibly for a continuing dialogue between the native organizations and this Assembly in the months ahead. So, I welcome that and I compliment the members from ITC for their presentation.

I would also compliment them for the paper, which although it was not discussed today or referred to today on which, I believe, Mr. Suluk's remarks were based and I compliment them on the paper "Political Development in Nunavut". In saying that, obviously I do not agree with everything that is contained therein, and I do not imagine the directors of Inuit Tapirisat agreed with everything that was in that paper when it was presented at Igloolik in September, 1979. However, it is an excellent paper. It raises questions; it raises concerns; it raises considerations that face this Assembly as well as the embryonic legislative assembly of Nunavut or Nunatsiaq or whatever that name may be. I would hope that not only does the paper receive wide distribution but it is read widely and it is studied because it is an excellent base line document and I think we can thank the originators and authors for putting it together.

Now my questions are rather simple. They relate in one aspect to a point raised by Mr. McCallum. I think it was on point three: Thirdly, ITC suggests that the Assembly indicate to the federal government that no further legislative or administrative powers should be transferred from Ottawa until the direction of political change has been decided. I wonder if Mr. Suluk or any member of his delegation might be a little more specific in indicating just what "direction of political change" as referred to here describes? Does that mean an acceptance by the federal government of setting up a separate eastern territory?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

ITC And N.W.T. Government May Ask For The Same Things

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only at this time answer Mr. Butters in general terms. This point was brought about because of the fact that, as we mentioned, this Legislative Assembly want to take over such as resource management or other areas which the present Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories do not have at this time. The reason why we are taking the stand at this moment is because we are entering, we will be entering into negotiations with the federal government and to me as a negotiator it feels like the territorial Legislative Assembly or the territorial government is claiming pretty well the main things that the Inuit in the Northwest Territories want to take over.

For this purpose we would like to have this Legislative Assembly, if at all possible, respect the land claims process which will be going, we hope, by as early as this summer. We feel that we will be talking about the same things that this Legislative Assembly wants, although not necessarily in a more comprehensive manner. So to your first question I would have to reply that we are uneasy about the territorial Assembly or the territorial government asking for the same things that we will be asking for, because it would seem that we will not have anything left to claim other than getting some tracts of land or a certain amount of money for compensation plus a few cultural programs or a few educational inclusion programs. The Inuit in the Northwest Territories are not mainly interested in those little participatory programs. We are not interested in just participating in the same manner as hunters and trappers or education societies or the Northwest Territories game councils or those advisory bodies. We do not feel that we could have too much input through these kinds of participatory programs.

Settlement Should Be With Federal Government

So it may be possible in the future that, after we come to an agreement with the federal government, it may be that some of the things that we will agree to will require working side by side or under some territorial government programs, but at this time that is the main reason why we want the territorial Assembly as much as possible, for as long as they can -- I guess in effect we should be presenting this request to the federal government. We do not want to have to -- we feel that the territorial government is having a land claims proposal of their own and we feel, as we stated in the paper, that our settlement should be between the Inuit of Nunavut and with the federal Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Butters, did you have another question?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Through you I thank Mr. Suluk for a very complete answer on such short notice. That was most helpful. There was one other brief item, although it is of major importance, which I marked within the paper itself. I just cannot find the reference now but it is a matter which has obviously been addressed and is being addressed by Inuit Tapirisat relative to the proposed funding for the new territory. I note that I think on two or three occasions there is reference in the paper to taxation approaches or taxation policies which Nunavut may be looking at some years down the road. I wonder if the members from ITC might offer some of the possible approaches which are being contemplated or would be contemplated by Nunavut, especially since this Legislature and Members of this Legislature are interested in developing similar practices and similar arrangements.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to transfer the question over to either John Merritt or to Allen Maghagak.

Fifteen Year Timetable

MR. MERRITT: I think in the proposal that came out at Igloolik there was a statement that the ability of a government to finance itself in part determines the kind of jurisdiction that government has. I think one reason why ITC attached a 15 year timetable to the evolution of Nunavut into a provincial government was the understanding that Nunavut, at least initially, would not be able to stand on its own financial feet. I think Nunavut, at least in the first few years, would not be in a much different position than the existing territorial government is now. To some extent it is very hard to project revenue forecasts for the next ten or 15 years, particularly when revenue in the far North depends to a large extent on the kind and rate of non-renewable resource development.

Now we are working on that, but all we can say at the moment is that a Nunavut territory, like the existing Northwest Territories would have to look to the federal government for federal financing. I do not think that is incompatible with Canadian federalism generally, if you look to some of the maritime provinces. They do enjoy some special arrangements with the federal government and after all one reason for having a federal system is that some parts of the country that are not as well endowed with resources and revenues can look to the central government to help them out in carrying out their responsibilities.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, gentlemen. It is 4:00 o'clock and it is tea time again. We will break for another 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The committee will come to order. We are back into the discussion. Mr. Butters, I believe. You are finished. Mr. Noah.

MR. NOAH: (Translation) I want to make a comment and I also have a short question. Just a few minutes ago there was a comment made that they had found mineral deposits and it is getting harder to get land for a lot and we all know that mining companies have always had problems getting money from the government. I do not understand why there is so much of a hurry. I also have a question to Thomas Suluk and that is that there have been discussions about land claims and all the people in the Northwest Territories are aware of this because there have been discussions about it for a number of years. All communities are well informed about the land claims commission and they must be expecting -- all of the people of the Northwest Territories, Inuit and non-Inuit. I would just like to know why the land claims settlement is taking so long.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

Reasons For Delay In Land Claims Settlement

MR. SULUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to answer William Noah's straightforward question. My answer to the question is it has been heard before and the land claims settlement has been tried to be settled for so long. First of all I am going to talk about -- around 1975 there was a proposal that said that they would have land claims and this has been understood and it had been accepted by the legal services and non-natives. This was returned at the end. The commission was made up and the Inuit had a meeting. They said that they would have to be included. Self-determination would have to be included and they also heard about the agreement in principle. They did not want any amount of money. They also wanted self-government and for a number of years they discussed -- the federal government in Ottawa said that the Inuit cannot have aboriginal rights and they cannot have self-determination. It cannot be discussed at all. We should face it that we should not even discuss self-determination or a government set up by Inuit. Now, because of this, the first representatives could not consult with the people.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk, would you slow down a bit? The interpreters are having trouble.

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will slow down. (Translation) I said that last year or a year ago the ITC said that the negotiations progress is going too slow and so they dissolved the commission and people have heard about it. It is not new news. It is known by everybody now because it has been talked about. The commission was eliminated because they were going to deal with land claims and last year in the summertime they were going to start on this again. The public was waiting for the negotiations and for the agreement and for ITC to have their annual meeting but it was delayed again. The different associations were leaving for the meeting for agreement and the agreement has not been progressed. I am hesitating to make a comment on this. We are very sorry that we did not discuss this at the ITC annual meeting. This far I have moved to Ottawa where it was aired that there were employees in the Keewatin and at first they waited for the association, but the real reason, the other reason was because the new federal party, the Progressive Conservatives, were inquiring about aboriginal land claims and there would be a policy paper also dealing with a policy for the constitution. The Progressive Conservative party was falling apart again and there had to be another election. Now, the land claims settlement could not be presented, the land claims had to be presented to the federal government but the parties were not prepared, and so we could not present it. In January the party fell and they felt that they could not deal with this during the election.

Now we have a new federal party, the Liberal party, and again this party will not be ready to meet for a month or two. There has to be a new Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs appointed and for this reason we will not be able to start until this summer on this agreement. I understood in Baker Lake that that problem had to be dealt with right away on aboriginal rights and development but we are waiting for the federal government and when they are ready to negotiate with us then we will start again. The problem in Baker Lake is to be dealt with as soon as possible and we will be dealing with it at our Ottawa meeting next month. For that reason I cannot really answer or comment on this as to how it will be set up. That is the only answer I have for you as to why it is taking so long to settle the land claims.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Noah, have you been answered?

MR. NOAH: (Translation) Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I have no further questions.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion? Any questions? Mr. Patterson.

Position Of The Assembly And The Creation Of Nunavut

MR. PATTERSON: I would like to ask a question for a little clarification on one of the five points made in the paper and it is the first point on page 10. It says: "First, ITC suggests that the Council support the making of certain assumptions by ITC about the creation of Nunavut throughout negotiations, even if the Legislative Council prefers to reserve its final position on Nunavut to a later date."

I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, if the delegation could tell us, could you be more specific; what assumptions by ITC about the creation of Nunavut do you wish the Assembly to support? I would just like to have a little more detail about that because I think the Assembly will certainly be having occasion to consider the Nunavut proposal. Perhaps at some point in its future, after we have consulted all groups in the Northwest Territories, perhaps to a report of the Nunavut committee we may make a vote or take the position on the Nunavut proposal, and perhaps the federal government will ask us to take a position but what assumptions do you want us to make in the meantime? Can you give us more details and perhaps explain how it would help your negotiations for us to make these statements of principle?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

Political Concessions

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question over to Mr. Merritt, one of our legal counsels, but first of all I would like to make a general comment. If the Inuit of Nunavut had not wanted to have political concessions, because at this time, as I mentioned before, we are not in any position to decide what happens in our land, and the political development paper concerning the proposed future of Nunavut was made as a compromise, believe it or not, because the original position of the Inuit which to this point is still one of the principles that is adhered to by ITC, there is one which says that the Inuit of Nunavut will reserve the right to get their own political institutions along Inuit political lines, or in Inuit political circles, which raised a lot of fears on the part of the federal government. To my knowledge, even, or in spite of the fact that the Inuit, or some Inuit of Nunavut might say we want nothing to do with the territorial Assembly or with any institutions which are not part of the way the Inuit want them, this political development paper is in respect a compromise on the part of ITC and on the part of the Inuit because by adopting a position which is very similar to the existing territorial Assembly, we feel that since we are adopting a southern Canadian system, which is not really the original system of the Inuit, that we feel that the government, those in power, would feel less inclined to oppose a proposal which is to my knowledge taking a system from the Canadian system which is not ours.

So, in effect, we are saying we could take a very hard line, but since we are reasonable people we will adopt your system, if it is this way because of the fact that in this kind of Legislative Assembly made up of representatives from large centres like Yellowknife or Fort Smith or Fort Simpson or others because they are more used to this southern style of system, they have the distinct advantage over the Inuit, for example, who may not be familiar with all the ins and outs of controlling what is happening in the North.

Support Of The Legislative Assembly

So, we are asking, we would like to ask this Legislative Assembly to support, I guess I should say at the least, support the creation of Nunavut because it is still going to be the same kind of system as we have now except that it would ensure that the Inuit in the Eastern Arctic would end up in the majority and would be able to control or direct policy to their new civil service because at this time we do not feel, or rather, we feel that too many of the policies made by the Government of the Northwest Territories reflect more or less the wishes of businessmen or developers or other people who live in Yellowknife, Fort Simpson or elsewhere. So, the policies which are created, whether we like them or not, in the Eastern Arctic we have to follow them.

So, we are asking on this point to have this territorial Legislative Assembly support the creation of Nunavut. It does not mean that the federal government will be listening to the territorial Assembly or to the Inuit. It does not mean it will come about and we know pretty well that it might not necessarily come about, but at least we want this Assembly to support and assume that there will be a Nunavut government. Maybe, just maybe, we may find a solution. If you want a more concrete answer I could have Mr. Merritt make an addition to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MERRITT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should say in correspondence with the Minister of Indian Affairs and land development over the last six months or so, ITC has asked that the Minister accept that ITC would recommence negotiations on the assumption that there would be a Nunavut government. That is not asking the federal government to make a commitment at this time. In fact, the federal government has indicated it is not willing to make a decision one way or the other at this point.

However, if we are able to go into that negotiation with that working assumption on our part, we will be able to negotiate many of the non-political aspects to the agreement prior to the whole question of political change in the Territories being decided. Really what we are saying is that we would like the Assembly to support in principle our making a working assumption as to there being a Nunavut government at some point in the future. That will allow us to go forward with negotiations and will not force us to await the resolution of the entire question of constitutional change in the Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Patterson, do you wish -- any further discussion? Perhaps I should recognize Mr. Awa and Mr. Allareak. Could you please show your appreciation?

---Applause

Is there any further discussion? Mr. Butters.

Referendum North Of The Tree Line

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I just have a supplementary, sir, to the question asked by the hon. Member from Frobisher Bay. In the paper "Political Development In Nunavut" there is reference to a referendum among the people of the North. I think it suggests that a referendum is not considered too necessary. I wonder if either one of the members of the delegation from ITC might speak to the advisability or desirability or the necessity of holding some type of referendum north of the tree line.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

MR. SULUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me just say that as William Noah said the land claims have been with us for close to a decade without any real agreement being reached. We do feel that that maybe some time in the future when we may have to put this question to a referendum amongst the people. First of all, I would have to say I would restrict the referendum, if there was one, to the people of Nunavut. Now, whether that would include non-Inuit as well, and if it should happen since this proposal is not only for the Inuit, it is only an attempt to satisfy both cultures I guess, but on the other hand, we are trying to satisfy the Inuit by giving them more responsible government which would deal specifically with them and at the same time to keep this proposal in a way that the government would be more willing to accept it, other than the fact that maybe there is not enough population in the Northwest Territories to warrant that for all practical purposes. Other than that, it is a serious attempt to come to grips with the desire of the Inuit to gain some sort of control over their future.

I do not know if it would be possible for the federal government to give some kind of control over to the Inuit without having to divide the Territories. I do not know. This is in the public forum. The political development paper is a public document. It is in the hands of both levels of government and it is in the hands of the Inuit. All we really want is for the federal government to say, "We recognize that there is a legitimate need, this is a legitimate problem. We will deal with it." That is not what we are saying here. We want the federal government to recognize the fact that something has to be done. I do not know what will happen. Once they say, "Okay, we will deal with it seriously", then I think the land claims negotiation could progress at a faster rate. Does that answer your question?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Hon. Mr. Butters.

Referendum For Nunavut Residents Only

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think it is helpful. It is on page 15 of the paper and I think Mr. Suluk responded that the belief of the ITC is that a referendum would be held, but it would be held among residents of Nunavut only. I guess the reference in the paper suggests that ITC would not expect or would not wish to see a referendum that would be territorial wide. Is that reading of the statement in the paper correct, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

MR. SULUK: I will let Mr. Maghagak answer this question.

MR. MAGHAGAK: Mr. Chairman, I think in order to answer the hon. Member's question, to understand that our position in regard to the negotiations of land claims and also discussions on the constitutional and development end of our negotiations, I think first of all we have to identify what our position is going to be in respect to land claims and also to identify exactly how the government or the Nunavut government is going to be set up and then put the referendum to the people of Nunavut, whether they are Inuit or non-Inuit.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion? Mrs. Sorensen.

Northern Style Government

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Suluk, I also join in with my colleagues in offering my congratulations on your submission today. I think it was a frank and open submission and I appreciate the restraint with which you made it. In my response to the Commissioner's Address I stated that I did not see the ambitions for a divided territory as a threat. In fact I said that I felt it was a challenge, a challenge to this government and a challenge to the people of the North as a whole. I said that I personally would prefer to see that the North remains united because I for one see a great strength in a united Territories but I also said that I would be prepared to help take the steps toward supporting division of the Territories if that, in the end, is what is in the best interests of northern people.

I proposed at that time that we look seriously inward into the structure of the Government of the Northwest Territories, that we evaluate the traditional southern model of responsible government, a model which, as Mr. Patterson has time and time again pointed out and which I have made comments on, a model which is one which our Executive Committee is now fashioned after. I suggested that we look closely to try to find a new structure, a northern style government based on our northern priorities, even if it ultimately meant that terrible word "regional government". I propose that this government set aside all our southern models and that we define a northern way of governing, as I said, a government where the emphasis is on the region.

A question which has constantly been on my mind as a Member is not should we allow more regional expression, but how can regional expression be best met in this government under one united government? I felt then and still do feel that one of the first places to start to make the territorial government into a government of this Legislature is with the budget. You mentioned that you are not sure if the federal government is prepared to hand over political power to the Inuit. Well, I think this government is prepared to do that and I would think that personally I would like to start with the Baffin Regional Council. I feel that this government could very soon decentralize the administration to this body and actually have it run the Baffin region operations and in time, as the Baffin Regional Council felt it wanted to take on more powers, then a devolvement of powers could take place to the Baffin Regional Council. So too, the same thing could happen in other regions with similar bodies or bodies which those regions would choose to represent them could be set up.

One United Body In The N.W.T.

The key, of course, to me is one united body in the Northwest Territories, one united body perhaps made up of several regional governments. I feel that there is strength in numbers of people and I feel that there is this strength in a determination to work together and I feel that this Assembly is determined to find a mechanism whereby we can work together. I feel that we can create a government that is reflective of our northern situation because even within this Assembly we have a body that is truly reflective of the northern situation. I have confidence that the unity committee will do everything in its power to find consensus, but I am also fairly fearful that if this government does not begin to make changes immediately, that we are going to coast into Nunavut before we know it. So I would just like to serve notice that that is one of my commitments on this Assembly, to try to change this government, try to create a government that is acceptable to as many people in the North as possible. In the end, of course, if that is not possible, then, as I said, I am prepared to support division in the Territories. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. Mr. Suluk may want to comment. Did you want to comment first before I make further remarks?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Did you want to comment, Mr. Suluk?

MR. SULUK: Well, this is a loaded question. There is a question in there, if I get it, the one concerning regional government and so on. Unfortunately I would feel that unless the board of directors of ITC wished to take alternative positions I would feel that if I make a reply other than calling for or supporting the creation of Nunavut I would feel that my job or something would be on the line, unless I get clearance from the board of directors of whom I am a member. But I can tell you that in our next meeting which is scheduled to be some time next month that we will be discussing the relationship between land claims and political development and including Nunavut. The least I could do at this moment is that I can promise to bring forward a question relating to your comments but, as I mentioned, I cannot reply to that. I do not feel too safe in making a concrete reply at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Curley.

Commitment To The Eastern Arctic

MR. CURLEY: Having gone through some of the statements that ITC made in respect to the presentation, my understanding is they have a commitment to negotiate the political Nunavut structure for the Eastern Arctic. My reading of the hon. Member from Yellowknife South is that she is trying to make a back room deal and maybe try and convince him otherwise but I do not think that is the policy of ITC at the moment.

MRS. SORENSEN: Shame, shame!

MR. CURLEY: They have not had a recent annual meeting to change that mandate that the members of the Eastern Arctic people north of the tree line have given to ITC. What I would just like to suggest is that as a Member from the far East my commitment is to give more responsibility to the Eastern Arctic, whether we achieve it through Nunavut government or whether we achieve it through the Executive Committee Members giving the responsibility to the local level. Unless we start to see progress in that area I think it would be ridiculous for this Assembly at this time to expect -- let us make a final agreement to reach a unanimous agreement to have a united government. I do not think it is workable. I think we are fooling ourselves because we have at least four years to work at that and by then we may get another bunch of more radical groups who will not be opposed to a united government.

Seriousness Of The Inuit Tapirisat's Proposal

So I would just like to suggest that, you know, we consider ITC's position seriously. I think it is a proposal that has strong support of the people and I think shortly we are going to be debating the question and we are going to be debating the sessional paper on Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories. I am not sure yet exactly what type of constitutional responsibility they are talking about, whether the Assembly wants to talk about provincial powers which the previous other Assemblies have tried to acquire. It has not been acceptable to the people in the Eastern Arctic, mostly to the native people as well. If I read between the lines I think we are going to be seeing some of the conflicting responsibilities between the unity committee and the Minister responsible for aboriginal rights, as I read the sessional paper. I would just like to serve notice I think that is one we will be debating seriously. Whether or not this sessional paper would make more opportunities for the supporters of the resource development or other groups that have been opposed to land claims, my thinking is that they will be given a free, direct opportunity to deal with the government responsible for aboriginal rights or the Minister and the constitutional development. So I would just like to advise the Members of the Assembly that I think we ought not rush into trying to settle the political structure of the Northwest Territories at this time. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Wah-Shee.

Situation In The West

HON. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I would like to make some comments to my colleague from Keewatin South. Ever since the session has started I have heard different times dealing with either one motion or the other in regard to the situation in the Eastern Arctic, but I must say that we in the West also do have our own particular problem in regard to this administration. I think that ITC should be aware that the Dene people do not necessarily accept this institution as it exists at the present time. My colleagues Mr. Sibbeston and Mr. Nerysoo have stated a number of times in the past that changes have to be made, and that if serious dialogue is going to be made with native organizations it will have to be made on the basis of changes of attitude, taking seriously their proposals on aboriginal

rights, constitutional development, but I think that we have reached a crossroads where old ways and old attitudes have to be put aside and a new mandate has to come forth from this Assembly.

I feel quite pleased with the response from ITC that although they will do the research and look into ways and means of how the new territory of Nunavut should proceed, how it will function and so forth, at the same time I gather that they would be prepared to listen to other alternatives which would be put forth with regard to the Northwest Territories. In order to establish dialogue, if it is to have any merit, any meaning at all, it means that both parties have to be flexible on both sides.

I think that we have demonstrated time and time again that we do appreciate the particular situation that exists in the Eastern Arctic. I think we have listened, and we certainly want to understand. I think some of us who live in the West are ignorant, we probably do not have a good understanding of the situation in the East, and for that I think you can excuse us for the present time. However, I think as time goes along, we hope that some of us who represent the constituencies in the West will look forward to making trips to the East, to see what actually the situation that exists in the East is. We want to talk to the people in the communities. We want to talk to their leaders so we have a better understanding and perhaps a better appreciation of the situation that exists in the East.

Changes Come Through Participation

However, I sometimes think that there is some sort of a list that the Dene representatives in the Mackenzie Valley totally accept, or seem to be the vanguards of this particular institution, and I just want to indicate to the ITC representatives that that is not really the case. We are getting involved because we believe that changes can be made and the only way this can come about is if you participate and get involved. In the end, after all the discussions and meetings, and when the time comes to consider the Nunavut proposal, I would hope there would be other alternatives which would be discussed as well, in the spirit of dialogue you have to have some concessions. You must have some flexibility. That is the only thing that I would ask of my honourable colleague from Keewatin South as well as the hon. Members from the Eastern Arctic as well as ITC. Thank you.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Wah-Shee. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Curley.

Weakening The Position Of The Native People

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to remind the Members of the Assembly again that I think we are trying to take the ball away from the federal government. My understanding of the outstanding claims are the responsibility of the federal government and therefore the federal government is the trustee of the native peoples of Canada. By giving that responsibility to another Assembly, the provincial or territorial, would weaken the trust relationship between the federal government and the native peoples of Canada. I will not be around forever to protect the interests of the aboriginal people, the native peoples, whereas they are giving them the responsibility and let us say it is an expropriation of the lands. It would be ridiculous to give it to someone else when they in fact could make better deals themselves directly with the Government of Canada. I think surely this Assembly should be involved in any negotiations, but by giving the responsibility to the territorial Assembly without full authority to deal with the whole jurisdiction, without amending the Northwest Territories Act, I think we would be weakening the position of the native people who are trying to deal directly with the federal government.

The other thing is that my concern is that we will continue, no doubt, to deal with the question of constitutional development, but I think we are going to do that on the basis of the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories, not only the native people. Because of that, I continue to caution the Members of this House. When I say you are trying to take the ball away from those guys and settle the political and constitutional rights of their members, you know, it puts them in the position whether we are doing this in their interests or for the interests of the administration. No doubt I can say the administration is interested, this Assembly is interested, but I think as Members of the Assembly, we have the privilege to take part in any matters we want to debate. So, I am not trying to be fussy about it. I am just trying to put it into perspective, and to put it in proper place. So, we are not trying to squeeze the aboriginal rights of the people. They are the federal government's direct responsibility and they have vested in the territorial government responsibility, which is what would happen if this Assembly agrees that we should establish constitutional responsibility. So, without being rude to anybody else, these are the kinds of things that go through my mind and I have no proposals yet except to consider the ones ITC has presented us with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk, do you wish to make a final comment?

A Clearcut Proposal

MR. SULUK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to clarify the reason why we have felt reluctant to discuss any alternatives and the reason why we feel that we should stick with the Nunavut proposal at this time. It is mainly because, or the main reason is that we have a proposal. We would like to know, for a change, what the federal government has to say about it, because in the past the federal government negotiators ask us and say, "What do you want? Where is your document? Tell us what you want." It seems they do not know what we want after all these years. Now we have something in black and white, a clearcut proposal, a proposal so clear that even nature recognizes the geological boundary by providing the Northwest Territories with a tree line, by providing the Inuit in the Eastern Arctic and other people or the Dene and the other people in the Western Arctic. It is just that the federal government does not seem to recognize that this is something which should have been made, a legitimate boundary, ever since they formed the Northwest Territories.

Now, I would like to reply to James Wah-Shee, the reason why ITC is not prepared to look at alternatives at this time and also to inform the other Members of the Assembly at this time, is because for once we would like to get a straight answer from the federal government on whether they will say "No, you cannot have it. You might as well forget it." Or whether they will say, "Well, we will think about it. We will not disagree with it. We will have it discussed by the public." We want to find out first of all what this new government, referring to the federal government, what they will have, or what kind of things they will have, or what kinds of things they will have to say about it. For once we would like to get a straight answer from them because we could never get a straight answer in the past.

No Alternatives Will Be Entertained At This Time

So, that is why I would have to tell everyone here that we have no alternatives, we are not entertaining any alternatives at this time until we have found out how the federal government will react to this paper. Personally, I do not see why they would object to it because we are doing it their way, or to put it another way, we are doing it your way. We have gone away, at this time, from saying we will put in our own Inuit government and we will disregard the territorial government or the federal government. We are not taking that approach right now. We are putting it in black and white that our proposal is

the same as any other institution in Canada at this time respecting a territory and this is how we want it. We are waiting for the federal government, we are awaiting to find out what answers they will give, and all we are asking this Legislative Assembly is whether they can support this or not. That is all we are asking here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mrs. Sorensen.

Motion To Assist Baker Lake In Paying Debt Of Court Case

MRS. SORENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my statement of appreciation for the frank and open discussion that has taken place today I would like to move the following motion. I move that this Assembly recommend that the Executive Committee consider the feasibility of assisting the people of Baker Lake to pay the \$150,000 debt incurred as a result of their recent court case:

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): To the motion. Mrs. Sorensen.

MRS. SORENSEN: Mr. Chairman, because of the applause I got to the motion, I will be very brief and say nothing except that the motion says everything.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Any further discussion on the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that motion demonstrates not only in theory but demonstrates the need to deal with the serious situation that has created a division of the people in that community with the administration, the federal government. I think at this time that the Members should certainly entertain that and support that and I certainly would support the motion. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Nerysoo.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: Yes. I would add a further amendment to that motion, that the administration and the Executive Committee look into the feasibility of determining the expenses that the Dene Nation incurred during their caveat hearings and also their appeals and pay those expenses.

---Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Nerysoo, we are dealing with a specific one here. I believe that should be raised as another motion.

HON. RICHARD NERYSOO: I wanted to add that to that.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Nerysoo, when we are discussing the Dene Nation -- we are discussing the ITC and the Baker Lake position. When we come to the caveat, I think the motion would be in order but I have to rule it out of order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

Amendment To The Motion

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I trust that this amendment will simply reflect the situation as I am informed it exists. Apparently the outstanding amount is \$75,000. Apparently ITC had incurred legal expenses on behalf of the people of Baker Lake so perhaps the motion could be amended to read \$75,000, so we ask the Executive Committee to find a lesser amount and I would so move that amendment to that extent.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): To the amendment. We are just changing the amount here from \$150,000 to \$75,000. Hon. Mr. MacQuarrie.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: I am not clear whether the amendment suggests the government ought to pay that \$75,000 or just help to pay it.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): The motion would read for anyone who is listening: I move that this Assembly recommend that the Executive Committee consider the feasibility of assisting the people of Baker Lake to pay the \$75,000 debt incurred as a result of their recent court case.

HON. ROBERT H. MacQUARRIE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): To the amendment. Question being called.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Amendment Carried

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): To the amendment, we will just change the figure from \$150,000 to \$75,000. All those in favour of the amendment please indicate by raising your arm. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The amendment to the motion -- to the motion as amended, pardon me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Assist Baker Lake In Paying Debt Of Court Case, Carried As Amended

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Question being called. All those in favour of the motion as amended please indicate by raising your arm. Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Hon. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just a supplementary question to that motion. Is there any thought there is going to be an appeal or should also that appeal be considered?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Suluk.

MR. SULUK: I will have our legal adviser answer that.

MR. MERRITT: The time period for appeal has not yet expired so I so not think we can answer that question.

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: There is still time.

MR. MERRITT: I do not think it would be proper, Mr. Chairman, to indicate the position of the people of Baker Lake and ITC whether they will appeal the case in this forum.

MR. CURLEY: My only concern is that as a privilege I would like to state I think the Local Government department was involved and I think certainly the Minister responsible for Local Government should be aware or, if not, he should ask the local hamlet council whether they plan to appeal. I think there are two separate issues here. ITC certainly is one and the Baker Lake community was the one who instigated the court case, the hamlet council of Baker Lake.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you. I take it this concludes our discussion with the representatives of ITC. Mr. Patterson.

Development Of Regional Consciousness

MR. PATTERSON: If you will permit me, Mr. Chairman, I just have a few remarks. It seems to me that this has been a very fruitful discussion this afternoon and I do say again that I hope we can have the same kind of frank discussion with the Dene Nation. I think we are making great progress in this sort of an open debate and I was intrigued with the issue raised by the hon. Mrs. Sorensen about regional government and devolution because to me it is important to realize the Members of the territorial Legislative Assembly from the Eastern Arctic are not necessarily going in a different direction than ITC in its proposal for a Nunavut government. The way I see it if we devolve powers to regional and local authorities, if this government does that, first of all it is a healthier atmosphere than has existed with the presently perceived remote central administration and, secondly, if there is to be a Nunavut government and a separate political evolution for the people north of the tree line, then we are preparing the ground for that development by devolving powers to local authorities or to regional authorities.

Now the question of whether the Nunavut proposal contemplates regional government is one that perhaps should be addressed in the ongoing discussions of the Nunavut proposal by ITC and by the people of Nunavut. Personally I think that the way regional consciousness has developed particularly in my region, the Baffin region, has partly been a pragmatic reaction to the way the Government of the Northwest Territories has been, itself, organized and the Baffin Regional Council has developed as a popular grass roots response to the need to have input into the Baffin regional executive remoteness and the desire of people to make the delivery of services by the executive of the Baffin region relevant to the people.

My opinion is that a Nunavut government would emphasize local government and regional government much more than this present territorial government has been able to do it. At least it would emphasize regional and local government while it was in the territorial stage of its evolution as proposed. Later on it is proposed that with a share of resource revenues and with perhaps ownership of resources the Nunavut territory would be able to evolve into its own provincial or independent status, I suppose that the point that ITC is making to us today, Mr. Chairman, is that if, for example, this territorial government has had difficulty in negotiating responsibility for managing natural resources in the Northwest Territories, I think this has been discussed many times, that the territorial government should take over the administration of natural resources, renewable resources in the Territories. We might not have ever asked for ownership, although I guess that has been asked for by the previous Assemblies, but this government has seriously asked for responsibility for managing the resources without much success.

Success In Negotiating With The Federal Government

Now I think what ITC is saying is, with support from the territorial Assembly and premised on the possibility of Nunavut, maybe the Inuit with their legal status as aboriginal peoples, with their special status constitutionally and otherwise, maybe ITC has a stronger voice even than the territorial government has been able to marshal together in negotiating with the federal government and maybe with the help of this Assembly they can gain concessions which this government has been unable to obtain. I am sure that Members of this Assembly would say in that event, "If the Inuit in the process of land claims negotiations can get the sort of powers from the federal government that this territorial government has to date been unable to get itself, then who would deny them the fruits of negotiations that we ourselves have perhaps failed in obtaining?" I think it points out to the need for close co-operation in the coming years and really in the coming months. I think it points out the need for frank and open and ongoing dialogue between ourselves, probably through our unity committee, probably through whatever Executive Member emerges as being responsible for these sorts of issues as a result of our discussion of the sessional paper. But I do not think we are necessarily going in different directions. I guess all I am saying is that I am optimistic as a result of this afternoons discussion and I hope this is just the beginning. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. This concludes our discussion with ITC?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Mr. Commissioner.

A Responsibility To All The People Of The N.W.T.

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Chairman, I think that the discussion that has gone on has been invaluable and perhaps overdue. I understand Mr. Suluk's position very well and that of his colleagues, that is, that they have prepared a proposal, the Nunavut proposal and that is the proposal that they want to have discussed. On the other hand, as Mrs. Sorensen has said so well and a number of others, the alternatives as well as the Nunavut proposal must be examined and that is indeed a responsibility of this House because it must be borne in mind that each Member here was elected to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and therefore each Member carries a responsibility to look at the Northwest Territories as a totality. That does not mean that through such agencies as your committee on unity that conclusions may not be reached, that divisions will be necessary. I just continue, as I have from time to time, to caution you to look at the total picture and to look at the political power available and to examine those alternatives. I commend the ITC for the alternative which it has brought forward.

I wish I could be as optimistic as Mr. Patterson when he speaks of the possibility of a part of the Territories achieving a greater devolution of power from the federal government than this Legislature can achieve. I doubt very much if that would be the case, but I see no reason, and I am in agreement with him here, I see no reason why it should not be examined and this examination is something that must and will take place.

The proposition that Mrs. Sorensen outlined to you is that there may be a means through examining regional structures or whatever to retain a high level of political power while still meeting the legitimate claims, aboriginal rights and political desires of the people of the North. So to repeat myself, I commend ITC for coming forward with a very succinct proposal, but I also, if I dare, recommend to Members that they must look at the whole picture as territorial legislators which is exactly what they are. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): I would like to thank the members of the ITC, Mr. Suluk, Mr. Maghagak and Mr. Merritt and we will be speaking to you further on our aspirations and whatnot some other time. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. FRASER: Mr. Chairman, I move we recognize the clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Tologanak): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

I will now report to the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come to order. Mr. Tologanak.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF REPRESENTATIONS BY INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA

MR. TOLOGANAK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has concluded discussions with the representatives of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and have adopted the following motion: That this Assembly recommend that the Executive Committee consider the feasibility of assisting the people of Baker Lake to pay the \$75,000 debt incurred as a result of their recent court case. That, Mr. Speaker, was passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Tologanak. Mr. Wah-Shee wanted Members to know and has recommended that the sessional paper, the Executive Committee sessional paper on aboriginal rights be debated on Tuesday afternoon, that is, if Members will agree to that. I thought I would just mention that now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, announcements please and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Announcement, Members' services board meeting in Katimavik A at 10:00 a.m., February 25th. Standing committee on legislation in Katimavik A at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 26th.

ITEM NO. 10: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day, February 25, 1980, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Oral Questions
3. Questions and Returns
4. Petitions
5. Tabling of Documents
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions: Motions 21-80(1), 22-80(1)

9. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and Other Matters: Bill 1-80(1)

10. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., February 25, 1980, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT



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Yellowknife, N.W.T. at .50¢ per day, \$5.00 per session and \$12.50 per year.
Published under the Authority of the Commissioner
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