

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 1ST SESSION**

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TABLED ON FEBRUARY 21, 1984



Northwest

Territories Minister for Aboriginal Rights & Constitutional Development

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The Honourable John Munro, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development,
Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere,
OTTAWA, Ontario. K1A 0H4

Dear Mr. Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Council to inform you of this government's position with respect to the Final Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement initialled on December 19, 1983.

The Executive Council identified six major issues that it felt had to be addressed in the negotiations towards a final agreement. These were Sand and Gravel, Community Sites/Municipal Lands, Access, Lands Reserved for Indians, Financial Implication to the Government of the N.W.T., and Overlap. The Council feels that the first four items have been adequately dealt with in the Final Agreement and we have received assurances that special funding will be provided by the Federal Government to compensate this government in meeting its obligation under the Agreement.

On the matter of Overlap the Executive Council acknowledges the position of the Dene/Metis that their concerns have not been adequately resolved. We would remind you of your commitment that "a final agreement between COPE and the Government will be contingent upon solution of the problem of overlapping claims" (letter of August 22 to the President, Dene Nation). The Executive Council takes the position that the Government of Canada must honour this commitment by arriving at a solution which is fair to both the Dene/Metis and COPE within the time-frame of the approval process for the Final Agreement.

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With the provision that the Government of Canada must fulfill its responsibility in ensuring a fair and balanced resolution of overlap, I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Council endorses the Final Agreement as initialled.

Yours truly,



Dennis Patterson,
Minister.

