

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 7TH SESSION**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 77-86(1)

TABLED ON JUNE 25, 1986

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 77-86(1)
TABLED ON

JUN 25 1986

JOINT STATEMENT
BY
THE HONOURABLE TONY PENIKETT
GOVERNMENT LEADER
GOVERNMENT OF YUKON
AND
THE HONOURABLE DENNIS PATTERSON
DEPUTY GOVERNMENT LEADER
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ON
FEDERAL COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS POLICY

The Governments of Yukon and the Northwest Territories express their strong support for a new federal comprehensive claims policy based on the Coolican Task Force Report. We urge the Government of Canada to move quickly to adopt and implement a new national comprehensive claims policy to promote co-operative negotiations to achieve fair and just settlements of aboriginal claims in the North.

In recognizing the diversity of needs and aspirations of Canada's aboriginal peoples, a new federal policy must be sufficiently flexible to embrace the rich diversity of aboriginal cultures across the country. Not all of our regions aspire to the same form of self-government or desire the same settlement of aboriginal rights. The two territories are proceeding in unique ways. There is an opportunity in the North to deal with aboriginal self-government in a manner not possible in the provinces. These processes should be allowed and encouraged to continue. The new policy must therefore reflect the Northern situation.

With respect to the concept of extinguishment, we note the attempt to extinguish rights has been firmly rejected by the aboriginal people of Canada, especially Northerners. It has become a primary obstacle to resolving claims in both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. We believe effective settlements of comprehensive claims in the North must resolve past grievances and establish a social contract defining the rights and responsibilities of the parties. We support the belief that rights should be affirmed rather than extinguished. The issue should therefore not be extinguishment of rights but the removal of uncertainty respecting land and resources.

The implementation process is a vital part of any settlement. Any new policy should emphasize this aspect of claims settlements.

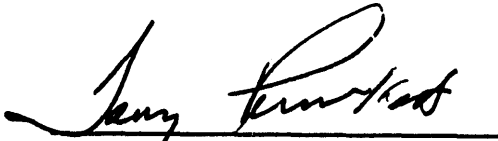
It is also our view that there is merit in pre-settlement implementation of claims sub-agreements on a case-by-case basis in the North. We believe that the attempt to conclude final, all-encompassing, one-time agreements creates administrative difficulties owing to lack of preparation for implementation and may lead to a waste of resources. We feel that by sharing in new responsibilities, training and resource requirements can be met, immediate benefits can be realized, and the inherent failings of a 'final moment' strategy avoided.

We recognize the need to ensure that aboriginal peoples have an adequate resource base to meet the social and economic objectives discussed in the Coolican Report.

In both Territories, efforts to provide the public with more information about claims have been stepped up recently. This is in recognition of the fact that the general public requires assurances that their interests are being taken into account at negotiations. A co-ordinated public relations and information strategy involving governments and aboriginal groups is being pursued in both Territories.

On the matter of a Commissioner of Claims, both the Yukon and Northwest Territorial governments agree that the establishment of such an office will provide a much-needed overseer of the process.

Canada has witnessed only two settlements of claims since 1973. The governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories believe that just and expeditious settlements of aboriginal claims and native economic self-sufficiency can best be achieved in the framework of a new federal comprehensive claims policy based on the principles we have cited.



Tony Penikett
Government Leader
Yukon



Dennis Patterson
Deputy Government Leader
Northwest Territories

JUN 25 1986

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE TONY PENIKETT,
GOVERNMENT LEADER, GOVERNMENT OF YUKON, AND
THE HONOURABLE DENNIS PATTERSON, DEPUTY GOVERNMENT LEADER,
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, ON
FEDERAL COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS POLICY

ᑲᑭᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ

ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ ᑭᑕᑦ

