

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 9TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 25-87(1)

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 26, 1987



**INUVIALUIT
REGIONAL
CORPORATION**

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FEB 26 1987

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February 20, 1987

Mr. Stephen Kokfwl
Chairman
Western Constitutional Forum
Box 1589
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P2

Dear Mr. Kokfwl,

Your letter of February 2, 1987 is not correct.

On November 2, 1986, when discussions between NCF and WCF in Yellowknife, you stated you and John Amogoolik get together in Ottawa to see how discussions on division might continue.

No authority was given to you by IRC or COPE or anyone else to negotiate or fix the content of an agreement.

Neither you nor John Amogoolik ever once called anyone at IRC or COPE between November 2, 1986 and January 15, 1987 to advise you were negotiating an agreement, nor did you invite anyone from IRC or COPE to participate in negotiations. We only learned on January 8 through the media of possible meetings.

The situation is very much like that seen in the current crisis between Newfoundland and the federal Government over fishing rights given to France. While Premier Peckford's Government was consulted in preliminary discussions, the Mulroney Government failed to advise or invite Newfoundland to the negotiating table when the fishing agreement was hammered out between January 10 to 24, 1987. The Mulroney Government has now admitted to and apologized for this (in its own word) "disgraceful" approach.

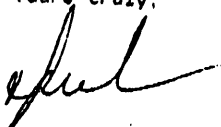
When all the attempted rationalizations are swept away, it is clear that this Agreement was negotiated and signed through a process of secrecy without consultation with our organizations or with the residents or representatives of any communities.

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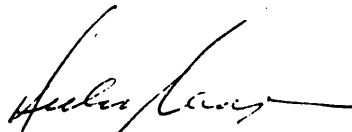
Indeed, we suspect one reason the Agreement was negotiated and was signed so quickly is because the Alliance was out of funds, and some individuals wanted to create the appearance of progress in the hope of quickly obtaining more funding for the continuing exercise.

Perhaps this in part explains why such an inadequate agreement, so harmful to all peoples in the Northwest Territories, could be signed.

Yours truly,



Roger T. Gruben
Chief Regional Councillor
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation



Nellie Cournoyea

c.c.: News/North
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Tusaayaksat
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