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# *Inuit may boycott native celebrations*

## *Want DIAND to step aside in organizing activities*

by **Ronna Bremer**  
Northern News Services

### **Inuvik**

The president of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada is calling on the federal government to repeal a decision that put Indian and Northern Affairs in charge of activities for next year's international year of indigenous people.

A committee of aboriginal people should be created to replace the department's or Inuit may boycott the event, said Rosemarie Kuptana at ITC's annual general meeting in Inuvik last week.

"To me boycott is pretty harsh wording ...if they are totally unresponsive to our needs and requirements the last option would be to boycott it."

Kuptana said she is "strongly opposed" to having the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs as the co-ordinating body.

"Traditionally Indian and Northern Affairs is seen as the colonial arm of the federal government,"

she said.

She urged ITC members to pass a resolution that would send a strong message to the federal government of their dissatisfaction with the decision.

The United Nations has designated 1993 as the International Year of Indigenous Peoples.

She said aboriginal groups would be better able to depict their own

cultures.

Another issue that had Kuptana steaming at the meeting was the lack of funding from the federal government for activities.

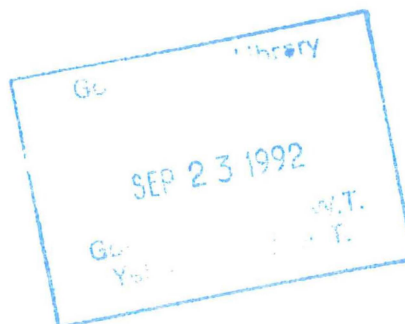
"I think it's an insult, a slap in the face by the federal government that they will not fund the international year of indigenous people."

Kuptana said the government should reverse

that decision as well and allocate money for the planning and implementation of activities.

She will be meeting with other aboriginal groups to discuss what action should be taken.

Kuptana is optimistic a co-operative arrangement can be made but she didn't rule out the possibility her organization would boycott the activities if their demands aren't met.



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