



Report of The Special Committee on National Unity

To the Legislative Assembly on NWT Consultations on National Unity
and
Strengthening the Federation

Hon. Don Morin, MLA
Chair,
December 2, 1997





Special Committee on National Unity

Members

Hon. Don Morin
MLA, Tu Nedhe
Chair

Hon. Jim Antoine
MLA, Nahendeh

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi
MLA, Sahtu

Mr. Roy Erasmus
MLA, Yellowknife North

Mr. John Ningark
MLA, Natilikmiot

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen
MLA, Hay River



December 2, 1997

The Honourable Sam Gargan, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I am pleased to submit this Report of the Special Committee on National Unity respecting the results of NWT consultations on national unity and strengthening the Canadian federation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Morin".

Hon. Don Morin, MLA
Chair

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Executive Summary

On September 14, 1997 the Premiers of all provinces and territories, except Quebec, met in Calgary to discuss measures which could be taken to promote national unity and strengthen the Canadian federation. Premiers unanimously agreed that the first and most important step was to conduct grassroots consultations with their constituents based upon a seven point framework to help focus the discussions. Following consultations in their respective jurisdictions, Premiers agreed that their Assemblies would consider resolutions which reflect the views of their constituents on national unity and strengthening the federation.

In response to these agreements, the Legislative Assembly established the Special Committee on National Unity to oversee and monitor the Northwest Territories consultation process, and provide a report back to the Legislative Assembly, including a recommended resolution. The Northwest Territories will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to review the results of national unity consultations and consider a national unity resolution.

In addition to obtaining reaction to the seven point Calgary consultation framework, the Special Committee confirmed that three themes should also be part of the Northwest Territories consultation process. The themes state that promoting national unity and strengthening the federation must take into account the everyday needs and a secure lifestyle for northern residents and all Canadians; the historical and current realities of Canadian Aboriginal nations, their status as founding peoples of this country, and the special land, treaty and self government rights they have under the Constitution; and, that Canada includes northern territories which comprise a unique region of Canada.

The approach to consultation in the Northwest Territories gave MLAs the lead role in consulting with their constituents. In addition, residents could provide their comments to a questionnaire which was advertised in newspapers or through e-mail, regular mail, fax or phone. In addition, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Antoine was charged with consulting with Northwest Territories Aboriginal leaders for their views.



Northwest Territories residents expressed general, although qualified, support for the points within the consultation framework as outlined below:

- there is support for references in points 1, 3 and 4 of the framework to equality of Canadians and equal rights; Canada's diversity, tolerance, compassion and equality of opportunity; and, Canada's diversity of peoples and cultures, languages and multiculturalism;
- there is support for a Northwest Territories resolution which more accurately reflects the historical and current realities of Aboriginal Canadians;
- there is support for more references to Canada's territories in the framework and some limited concerns about the reference in point 5 to the unique character of Quebec society; and
- there is general, although qualified, agreement that the consultation framework reflects the interest of Northerners.

With respect to consultations with Northwest Territories Aboriginal leaders, the Aboriginal Summit advised that they feel the consultation and resolution process was too rushed; however, they provided some proposals for the content of a resolution. They also respected that this is a Legislative Assembly initiative and that western residents and organizations should express their views and concerns through their MLAs and the Special Committee.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated indicated their support for the resolution.

In addition to taking into account the input received to date from Northwest Territories residents the Special Committee considered the following in developing its recommendations:

- the influence which a Northwest Territories resolution could have upon resolutions which are being prepared for consideration in other provinces and Yukon;
- providing a strong message of support, through a Northwest Territories resolution for Aboriginal participation in the national unity process and for resolutions which more accurately reflect the Aboriginal characteristics of Canada, including Aboriginal rights and interests;
- as the national unity debate unfolds in the coming months, it will be important for Northwest Territories residents to know the Legislative Assembly's position;
- a resolution will provide the Premier, Ministers and GNWT officials with the mandate they need in ongoing consultations with the federal government, provincial governments and Aboriginal nations; and
- the need to extend the Special Committee's mandate to monitor the national unity process, report to the Legislative Assembly and make recommendations on protecting and promoting Northwest Territories objectives.



Based on these considerations, the Special Committee recommends the following:

Recommendation One

That the Legislative Assembly debate the national unity resolution contained in its report.

Recommendation Two

That the resolution serve as direction for the Premier, Ministers and GNWT officials in future deliberations on national unity and strengthening the federation involving the federal and provincial governments, Yukon and Aboriginal nations.

Recommendation Three

That the mandate of the Special Committee on National Unity be extended for the purposes of monitoring the national unity process, keeping the Legislative Assembly informed, and making recommendations on Northwest Territories participation and objectives in the process.



Introduction

On September 14, 1997 the Premiers of all provinces and territories, except Quebec, met in Calgary to discuss measures which could be taken to promote national unity and strengthen the Canadian federation. The meeting was prompted, in part, by a concern about yet another Quebec referendum on separation and the implications which secession could have for Canada.

Premiers unanimously agreed that the first and most important step was to conduct grassroots consultations with their constituents to determine their views on national unity and strengthening the federation, including the issue of Quebec's status within a united Canada.

Premiers also agreed on a seven point framework to help focus the consultations, although provinces and territories were given the option of including additional topics and issues to accurately represent their constituents' interests and circumstances. Guidelines for consultation were also adopted (Appendix 1).

Following consultations in their respective jurisdictions, Premiers agreed that they would have a debate on the results and a resolution which reflects the views of their constituents on national unity and strengthening the federation as laid out in the Calgary consultation framework with revisions to reflect special issues or interests.

In response to the commitment made on behalf of the Northwest Territories in Calgary on September 14, the Legislative Assembly established a Special Committee on National Unity to oversee and monitor a Northwest Territories consultation process, provide updates and analysis on the national consultation process, prepare a report on Northwest Territories consultations, and recommend a resolution for consideration by the Legislative Assembly (Appendix 1).

The purpose of this report is to provide the Legislative Assembly and Northwest Territories residents with information on how consultations were conducted in the Northwest Territories; the results of these consultations; and recommendations on how the Legislative Assembly can express the position of the Northwest Territories through a national unity resolution.

The report also provides some background on the national unity consultation initiative, including the latest account of what is taking place in other jurisdictions; how Aboriginal interests are being taken into account; and the role of the Northwest Territories in previous national unity and constitutional reform initiatives.

The Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly is the first in Canada to receive a report on national unity consultations and debate a national unity resolution.



Special Committee's National Unity Consultation Themes

In addition to obtaining the reaction of Northwest Territories residents to the seven points of the Calgary framework, the Special Committee confirmed three fundamental themes to serve as the basis for consultation on national unity and strengthening the federation. It should be noted that these three themes also served as the Northwest Territories delegation's objectives when Premiers met in Calgary to develop the national unity consultation framework.

First, promoting national unity and strengthening the federation must take into account the everyday needs and a secure lifestyle for northern residents and all Canadians.

A strong and united Canada is a country where its citizens have access to quality education, health care, housing and other social services.

A strong and united Canada will provide productive employment for its citizens, support for its elders and a prosperous future for its children and youth.

These important features of a strong and united Canada are undergoing change as governments consider social policy reform and renewal including how governments and Canadians can pay for these programs and services.

Second, national unity and strengthening the federation must take into account the historical and current realities of Canadian Aboriginal nations, their status as founding peoples of this country and the special land, treaty and self government rights they have under the Constitution.

The Special Committee agrees that while the Northwest Territories can make an important contribution on these historic and current Aboriginal realities, it will also be important for Aboriginal peoples and their leadership from throughout the country to provide their input to the consultation process and have it reflected in resolutions from the provinces and territories.

The Special Committee is pleased that an agreement was reached in Winnipeg on November 18 between Premiers and national Aboriginal leaders to have a framework document on relations between federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments referred to the national unity consultation process (Appendix 2).

Third, national unity and a strengthened federation must take into account that Canada is composed of provinces and territories, and that the northern territories comprise a unique region of this nation.



Canada is by its nature and geography a northern nation. Its northern territories, including the two new territories which will be created in 1999, need to be recognized in a national unity resolution and guarantees provided that territorial governments and their residents will continue to be partners in national unity processes.

To date, it appears that the federal and provincial governments support a role for northern territories through their territorial governments. The Premier and Ministers have participated in all formal national unity meetings of political leaders and GNWT officials are involved in all formal meetings with their provincial and territorial counterparts. This is a welcome change from the past when the territories were excluded from important national unity and constitutional reform initiatives by Ottawa and the provinces.



Approach to Consultation with NWT Residents and Aboriginal Leadership

In developing an approach to consultation on the Calgary framework with Northwest Territories residents and Aboriginal leaders in both the east and west, the Special Committee had to take into account a number of factors.

For example, Northwest Territories residents are already being consulted on a wide variety of measures relating to creation of two new territories and Aboriginal issues like, claims, treaty entitlement and self government. A comprehensive national unity consultation campaign may only have served to make an already complex environment more confusing.

In addition, the Special Committee had to take into account the costs associated with an elaborate campaign at a time when program and service funding is being reduced as well as the schedules and priorities of the Legislative Assembly and Members at this crucial time leading up to the creation of two new territories.

With this background in mind, the Special Committee recommended that MLAs should take the lead role in consulting their constituents on national unity and strengthening the federation. MLAs were provided with an information kit to help in their consultations and a questionnaire was advertised in newspapers. MLAs were encouraged to hold public meetings to obtain input.

In addition, the Special Committee made arrangements for constituents to send their comments and questionnaire replies to the Legislative Assembly's toll free phone and fax numbers. Input could also be provided through an e-mail site and through regular mail. Finally a special national unity page was established on the Legislative Assembly's web site for information on the Calgary framework and the Special Committee (Appendix 1).

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Antoine was assigned responsibility for consultation with the NWT's Aboriginal leadership. In addition to correspondence with Northwest Territories Aboriginal leaders, the Minister met with the Aboriginal Summit on November 12 and by conference call on November 26. Deputy Premier Arlooktoo assisted Minister Antoine in consulting with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on November 28.



Response to NWT Consultation Process and Assessment of Results

Replies to the Special Committee's questionnaire (Appendix 1) was one source of reaction from Northwest Territories residents to the Calgary consultation framework. As replies continue to be sent to the Special Committee, the following provides a preliminary assessment of the input received to date.

In response to the question "Overall, do you support the framework?" the majority provided qualified support as outlined below.

When asked "What are the elements of the framework that you particularly like?" there was support for elements of points 1, 3 and 4 of the framework which make reference to equality of Canadians and equal rights; Canada's diversity, tolerance, compassion and equality of opportunity; and Canada's diversity of peoples and cultures, languages and multiculturalism.

Reaction to the question "Are there any elements in the framework that concern you?" focused on the need for stronger references to territories as a unique region of Canada and their role in the national unity process. A number of replies also expressed concern about the need for references to Aboriginal peoples which reflect the historical and current realities of their status in Canada, including their rights and interests. Other concerns expressed opposition to recognizing the unique characteristics of Quebec, the need for more emphasis on the social welfare of Canadians and, that the end product of the consultation process may not produce meaningful change or progress.

Next, northern residents were asked "Are there other elements that should be included?" The replies confirmed concerns raised about the need for more references to Aboriginal peoples and the territories in a national unity resolution.

In response to the question "Do you think the interests of Northerners are reflected in this framework?" two thirds of respondents said yes while a third said no. In interpreting these results it is important to note that most of the support for the Calgary framework was qualified, while most of those who opposed the framework felt that it needed some fundamental improvements.

The question "What does it mean to you to be Canadian?" resulted in a wide range of replies from residents who both supported and rejected the Calgary framework. In addition to the characteristics stated in points 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the framework, replies made reference to Canada as a land of opportunity where there is freedom, freedom of expression and freedom from oppression; where Canada is the best place in the world to live because it is vibrant, healthy, tolerant, compassionate and diverse in its population; where Canada is respected by the rest of the world because of its generosity, sincerity and ability to be unified in one of the largest and most diverse countries in the world; and because it is a nation which respects, honours and affirms Aboriginal peoples' rights and institutions.



The questionnaire also asked *“Does the framework reflect Aboriginal views and values on national identity? If not, how should these values be reflected?”* In the replies received to date, the response is split; however, it is important to note that there is a general consensus among those who both support and reject the framework that Aboriginal references need to be revised to reflect the historical and current status of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, including their rights and interests.

The Special Committee continues to receive replies to the questionnaire and will be preparing a more detailed review for presentation during the Legislative Assembly's session early in 1998.

Community meetings hosted by MLAs were another approach to collecting reaction to the Calgary consultation framework. Meetings were held in Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith. MLAs from these communities will provide more detailed accounts of their constituents views in the debate on the Special Committee's report and its recommendation for a national unity resolution.

With respect to consultations with Northwest Territories Aboriginal leaders, Minister Antoine was advised by the Aboriginal Summit that they considered the consultation and resolution process to be rushed; however, they provided some proposals for the content of a resolution. They also respected that this is a Legislative Assembly initiative and that western residents and organizations should express their views and concerns through their MLAs and the Special Committee.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated indicated their support for the resolution.

Overall, the Special Committee acknowledges that Northwest Territories residents have not responded in large numbers to the national unity consultations. Nevertheless, the forty questionnaire replies and reaction at community meetings have provided an important contribution which has helped to confirm some of the Special Committee's concerns with the Calgary framework and provide direction on the approach to a Northwest Territories national unity resolution. The Special Committee will continue to monitor and assess more input which is expected in the future.

Special Committee Recommendations

The Special Committee has developed its recommendations in response to the following considerations:

Northwest Territories Aboriginal leaders were united in their belief that the reference to Aboriginal peoples in the Calgary framework needs to be revised.

References in the Calgary framework to the status of Canada's territories and their role in the national unity process need to be strengthened, especially with the impending establishment of Nunavut.

As the Legislative Assembly will be the first in Canada to adopt a resolution, the Northwest Territories' positions will be taken into account when the provinces and territories are preparing their national unity reports and resolutions (Appendix 3).

The Calgary framework and resolutions adopted by provincial and territorial legislatures will need to accurately reflect the spirit and intent of provisions of the Canadian Constitution respecting the rights and freedoms of Canadians, the rights of Aboriginal nations and the status of federal, provincial and territorial governments.

An early response from the Legislative Assembly will also provide a strong message of support for Aboriginal participation in the national unity process and the need for national unity resolutions which more accurately reflect the Aboriginal characteristics of Canada, including Aboriginal rights and interests.

The Special Committee anticipates that the profile of national unity consultations will increase as the provinces and Aboriginal nations finalize their positions and debate resolutions. It is too soon to predict what will take place after this process has been completed; however, the product could become the basis for an amendment to the Canadian Constitution relating to the status of Quebec within Canada and other measures which will promote national unity and strengthening the federation. As the debate on national unity and strengthening the federation unfolds in the coming months, it will be important for Northwest Territories residents to know the Legislative Assembly's position.

A resolution by the Assembly will provide the Premier, Ministers and GNWT officials with the mandate they need in ongoing consultations with the federal government, provincial governments and Aboriginal nations on measures required to promote national unity and strengthen the federation. For example, the Prime Minister and Premiers will be meeting on December 11 - 12 to consider reforms to Canada's social policies and programs. The Special Committee has identified the future of Canada's social safety net as a major factor in contributing to national unity and the strength of the federation.



The Special Committee believes that its mandate is not concluded with the presentation of this report and consideration of a national unity resolution. As in previous national unity and constitutional reform rounds (Appendix 4) there will be further work required in monitoring how the national unity process unfolds in the coming months, reporting to the Assembly on developments, and making recommendations on protecting and promoting the Northwest Territories' objectives. An early response by the Legislative Assembly will help guide the Special Committee's future work.

Based on these considerations, the Special Committee recommends the following:

Recommendation One

That the Legislative Assembly debate the national unity resolution contained in its report.

Recommendation Two

That the resolution serve as direction for the Premier, Ministers and GNWT officials in future deliberations on national unity and strengthening the federation involving the federal and provincial governments, Yukon and Aboriginal nations.

Recommendation Three

That the mandate of the Special Committee on National Unity be extended for the purposes of monitoring the national unity process, keeping the Legislative Assembly informed, and making recommendations on NWT participation and objectives in the process.



NWT National Unity Resolution

The following is the text of the national unity resolution recommended by the Special Committee. Explanatory notes are provided in Appendix 5.

Whereas all Canadians and their governments have a responsibility for preserving and promoting a strong and united Canada for the benefit of all Canadians in all regions from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic;

Whereas the peoples, lands and institutions of Canada's northern territories, including the future territory of Nunavut, comprise a dynamic and vital region of Canada;

Whereas efforts to promote and preserve national unity require the meaningful participation of all territorial governments in any processes directed at achieving unity;

Whereas the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly supports the negotiation and implementation of self-government for Aboriginal peoples in the territories and elsewhere in Canada, to secure their Aboriginal and treaty rights, and Aboriginal peoples' full participation within the Canadian federation;

And Whereas the Northwest Territories has a unique character and status within the federation and expects a fair and equal opportunity to achieve the status of a full partner within the federation on equitable terms as referred to in the Quebec Resolutions of 1864 and the London Resolutions of 1866.

Be it therefore resolved that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories supports all efforts to secure the commitment of the people of all provinces and territories to the unity of Canada in accordance with the principles set out below:

1. The Aboriginal peoples of Canada, being the first peoples to inhabit and govern this land, have the inherent right to self-government to safeguard and develop their lands and resources, languages, cultures and traditions and to ensure the integrity of their societies.
2. Canadians are committed to a united country to ensure a society in which all Canadians and their children have access to the benefit of Canada's prosperity, including quality health care, social services, education and employment opportunities.
3. The rights of Canadians are secured equally by the rule of law and should be implemented in a just, broad and liberal manner taking into account the spirit and intent of guarantees under the Constitution.

4. All provinces are equal under the Constitution, and together with the territories, have equality of opportunity to develop their unique characteristics in partnership, while respecting each other's jurisdiction.
5. In the Canadian federal system, where respect for diversity underlies unity, the unique character of Quebec society, including its French speaking majority, its culture, its institutions, and its tradition of civil law, is fundamental to the well-being of Canada. Similarly, the well-being of Quebec is ensured by the legislature and government of Quebec having the ability to protect and develop the unique character of Quebec society within a united Canada.
6. A strong national government for Canada, and the historic flexibility of Canadians and their governments, remain essential elements of our ability to modify, adapt and renew our institutions and arrangements for the benefit of all Canadians.
7. Each government and legislature has, in a manner appropriate to each, a responsibility to ensure that these principles and precepts remain enduring features of Canada.





Appendix One
Special Committee
On National Unity
Information Package



Canadian Unity

The Northwest Territories Consultation Process

On October 6, 1997, Members of the Legislative Assembly gave unanimous approval to a motion presented by Premier Don Morin that established a Special Committee of the Legislature on National Unity. This page is devoted to assisting users in considering the Canadian Unity issue.

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- [Motion establishing Special Committee on National Unity](#)
- [Special Committee on National Unity announced](#)
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- [Aboriginal concerns](#) **New**
- [Questions and Answers](#)
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Canadian Unity

Premier's Statement on National Unity

The Hon. Don Morin
Premier and Minister
Responsible for
Intergovernmental Affairs
October 6, 1997

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that later today I will be tabling the agreement reached in Calgary on September 14, 1997 by Canada's Premiers and the Yukon Territorial Leader, except Premier Bouchard of Quebec. This proposal provides a framework and guidelines to consult Canadians on national unity. It is also intended to get is, in itself, an example of how the provinces and territories can work together on matters of importance to Canadians and the future of Canada.

A key priority of this Government's **Agenda for Change** is our intention to be heard at the national level. We know that national financial and political development can and will have a real impact on the interests of the Northwest Territories. We know that decisions made in Ottawa and by the provincial Premiers on social policy, education and health issues have a direct impact on the programs and services enjoyed by northern residents. We have taken a more coordinated and focused approach in our relationships with Canada and the provinces to build partnerships and ensure that the views of the NWT are taken into consideration. With this in mind, I participated in the Calgary meeting with three key priorities.

Mr. Speaker, our first priority was to ensure the continued inclusion and full participation of the Government of the Northwest Territories in an ongoing national unity process. Secondly, we wanted to secure a meaningful role for Aboriginal leaders in an ongoing national unity process. And thirdly, we wanted to ensure that any themes or principles developed in Calgary or any subsequent national unity process reflected the concepts of democracy, people, children and building for the future.

I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that we were successful in reflecting these priorities in the framework for consultation.

The framework, Mr. Speaker, proposes that each province and territory will conduct open, grassroots public consultations on how to strengthen the Canadian federation. The framework for discussion on Canadian unity and the guidelines for the process of public consultation which make up this Framework were agreed to by all Premiers and the Yukon Territorial Leader to provide a common element to seek the views of Canadians. All provincial and territorial leaders agreed to initiate consultations this fall and report their progress prior to the January 1998 Team Canada trade mission with the Prime Ministers. Each jurisdiction will determine the scope of its own consultations and the most appropriate mechanisms.

Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of months, NWT Ministers and MLAs will be consulting

with their constituents about concerns and aspirations of northern Canadians on how to make Canada stronger. In addition to constituency meetings and questionnaires, we have the benefit of modern technology with toll free numbers, electronic mail or web site communication to reach even the most remote areas of this vast territory. On behalf of Cabinet, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of National Constitutional Affairs and the Hon. Jim Antoine, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs will take the lead with me in guiding this public consultation process. This process must involve partnership with the Members of this Assembly and all NWT residents. I will be proposing a mechanism today, Mr. Speaker, for the consideration of members as a vehicle for this partnership.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to public consultations, the Prime Minister committed to host a First Ministers' Meeting to discuss social policy renewal, health care, and youth unemployment. The issues that are at the centre of "people" concerns. This meeting is scheduled for early December. I intend to participate with my federal, provincial and territorial colleagues at the meeting to bring forward the views of northerners on these and other national/territorial issues raised during the NWT public consultation process.

Also as part of the framework for discussion on Canadian Unity, all Premiers agreed to meet with Aboriginal Leaders in Winnipeg on November 18, 1997 to hear their views on strengthening Canada and the role of Aboriginal peoples within Canada. In addition to actively participating in the Winnipeg meeting, I fully intend to provide NWT Aboriginal residents with the opportunity to express their views on the future of Canada and their place in Confederation during the NWT public consultation process. I have asked the Hon. Jim Antoine, to take the lead in ensuring the views of Aboriginal residents are heard.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we provide a mechanism, a partnership, to ensure that activities of the government and Legislative Assembly in relation to the public consultations and future national unity activities are coordinated and transparent. Information and updates on activities need to be provided to Cabinet, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and NWT residents. I propose that a special committee be established to provide that partnership role in coordinating this important activity.



Unity index



Canadian Unity

Motion to establish a Special Committee on National Unity

October 6, 1997

WHEREAS Premiers representing all provinces and territories, except for Quebec, met in Calgary on September 14, 1997 to consider the implications of another Quebec sovereignty referendum on national unity and how the Canadian federation can be strengthened;

AND WHEREAS Premiers agreed that provincial and territorial residents must have an opportunity to provide their views on strengthening the Canadian federation and Quebec sovereignty before governments finalize their plans to deal with national unity issues;

AND WHEREAS Premiers have agreed on a framework for consultation and discussions on national unity issues as well as guidelines for a process of public consultation in each province and territory;

AND WHEREAS the framework for the consultation process will provide an opportunity for NWT residents to affirm and recognize Aboriginal Canadians as a fundamental characteristic of Canada; to reinforce the status of territories as legitimate partners in Confederation and to say how the Canadian federation can be strengthened;

AND WHEREAS it is expected that provincial and territorial Premiers and the Prime Minister will be discussing national unity issues when they meet in November with national Aboriginal leaders, in December when they meet to discuss social policy reform, and in January before the Team Canada trade mission to South America;

AND WHEREAS each provincial and territorial legislative assembly is committed to passing a resolution on national unity and strengthening the Canadian federation based on its public consultation process at an appropriate time during the next year;

AND WHEREAS the NWT Government and Legislative Assembly have effectively worked together in the past to advance Northwest Territories interests in national unity and constitutional reform talks;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thebacha that this Assembly establish a special committee to be named the Special Committee on National Unity;

AND FURTHER that notwithstanding Rule 88(2) the Special Committee on National Unity shall consist of six Members

AND FURTHERMORE that the following Members be appointed to the Special Committee on National Unity:

- Honourable Don Morin Member for Tu Nedhe

- Honourable Jim Antoine Member for Nahendeh
- Honourable Stephen Kakfwi Member for Sahtu
- Mr. Roy Erasmus Member for Yellowknife North
- Mrs. Jane Groenewegen Member for Hay River
- Mr. John Ningark Member for Natilikmiot

AND FURTHERMORE, that the terms of reference for the Special Committee on National Unity be established as follows:

1. The themes that will serve as the basis for the Special Committee's consultation with the residents of the Northwest Territories be:
 - a) Ensuring that principles and/or resolutions reflect the concerns of Canadians for their well being and the future of their children, including social policy renewal, health care and youth.
 - b) Securing a meaningful role for Aboriginal Leaders in the national unity process.
 - c) Recognition that Canada includes both territories and provinces and the territories must be included in the national unity and reform of the federation processes.
2. Oversee and monitor a Northwest Territories consultation process during the fall/early winter of 1997 which will include consultation by Members with their constituents through constituency meetings, questionnaires and toll free, electronic mail or web site communications.
3. Provide strategic advice on the range of consultative mechanisms which Members can use to obtain reaction from their constituents, recognizing that the NWT constitutional development agenda is already overloaded in terms of creation of two new territories and self government issues.
4. Ensure that Members and NWT residents are provided with regular updates and analysis on the national consultation process with particular reference to how Aboriginal and Northwest Territories issues are being addressed.
5. Prepare a report based on consultations and including recommendations for the Assembly to consider at a special session which may be convened in December 1997.

AND FURTHERMORE, the Special Committee on National Unity shall:

- a) conduct its business in a manner approved by the Committee and in accordance with the Rules of the Legislative Assembly;
- b) be provided with the necessary administrative and professional support by the Legislative Assembly and the GNWT; and
- c) be empowered to retain the services of such professional staff and advisers as deemed advisable by the Committee;
- d) be provided the necessary funds to carry out its responsibilities from the appropriations of the Legislative Assembly;



Canadian Unity

Assembly establishes National Unity Committee



Premier Morin

Yellowknife (October 6) - The Legislative Assembly announced today the establishment of a six-member Special Committee on National Unity to oversee consultations with Northerners on national unity particularly as it pertains to the NWT and Aboriginal issues.

"It is essential that we provide a mechanism, a partnership, to ensure that activities of the government and Legislative Assembly in relation to the public consultations and future national unity activities are co-ordinated and transparent," Premier Don Morin said in the Legislature today. "Information and updates on activities need to be provided to Cabinet, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and NWT residents."



Stephen Kakfwi

Mr. Morin also announced that the Cabinet representatives on the Special Committee will include himself, the **Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Minister of National Constitutional Affairs**, and the **Hon. Jim Antoine, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs**. Joining the three ministers on the Special Committee will be **Natilikmiot MLA John Ningark, Hay River MLA Jane Groenewegen, and Yellowknife North MLA Roy Erasmus**.



James Antoine

The themes which will serve as the basis for consultations in the NWT are:

- ❑ ensuring that principles and/or resolutions reflect the concerns of Canadians for their well being and the future of their children;
- ❑ securing a meaningful role for Aboriginal Leaders in the national unity process; and
- ❑ recognizing that Canada includes both territories and provinces and that the territories must be included in the national unity and reform of the federation processes.



A variety of means, including individual MLAs constituency meetings, will be used to communicate and receive feedback from Northerners. Northerners can also call the Legislative Assembly's toll-free phone and fax lines to leave or send messages. The phone line can be reached at 1-800-661-0784 and the fax is 1-800-661-0879. Comments can also be emailed to unity@assembly.gov.nt.ca or mailed to the Special Committee on National Unity, c/o Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, Box 1320 Yellowknife NT X1A 2T0

John Ningark



Jane Groenewegen



Roy Erasmus

BOX 1220, EDMONTON, AL, T6C 4E7.

A special National Unity page has been established on the Legislative Assembly of the NWT's Web Site where Northerners can get more information on the Calgary Declaration, the Special Committee, and leave their comments for the Committee. The address for the site is <http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>.

Comments should be submitted to the Special Committee by Friday, November 28, 1997. Committee members will report to the Legislature in early December.

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Unity index



Canadian Unity

The Calgary Declaration

Premiers' Meeting

Calgary, Alberta - September 14, 1997

PREMIERS AGREE TO CONSULT CANADIANS ON UNITY

CALGARY (September 14, 1997) - Nine Premiers and two territorial leaders have unanimously agreed on a framework for open and grassroots public consultations with Canadians on strengthening the Canadian federation.

Premiers and territorial leaders considered both the subject matter and the process of public consultation on national unity. The attached framework of subjects for consultation is not intended to be exhaustive. Each province and territory will determine the scope of consultation and the most appropriate mechanisms.

Premiers and territorial leaders also reached an agreement on guidelines (attached) and on a timeframe for public consultation. All Premiers and leaders undertook to initiate consultations this fall. They will report progress prior to their January Team Canada trade mission.

Premiers and territorial leaders also reiterated that the federation also needs practical non-constitutional approaches to reform, strengthen and improve its effectiveness. In August Premiers and territorial leaders released a statement on Social Policy Renewal that sets out approaches to work cooperatively with the federal government in the areas of health care and social programs. Today, Premiers, territorial leaders and the Prime Minister agreed to meet this fall to discuss social policy renewal and to work cooperatively in the areas of health care and youth unemployment.

Premiers and territorial leaders remain committed to meeting with Aboriginal Leaders to follow up on the recent Annual Premiers' Conference held in St. Andrews. This meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Winnipeg, Manitoba on November 18, 1997.

THE CALGARY DECLARATION

1. All Canadians are equal and have rights protected by law.
2. All provinces, while diverse in their characteristics, have equality of status.
3. Canada is graced by a diversity, tolerance, compassion and an equality of opportunity that is without rival in the world.
4. Canada's gift of diversity includes Aboriginal peoples and cultures, the vitality of the English and French languages and a multicultural citizenry drawn from all parts of the world.

5. In Canada's federal system, where respect for diversity and equality underlies unity, the unique character of Quebec society, including its French speaking majority, its culture and its tradition of civil law, is fundamental to the well being of Canada. Consequently, the legislature and Government of Quebec have a role to protect and develop the unique character of Quebec society within Canada.
 6. If any future constitutional amendment confers powers on one province, these powers must be available to all provinces.
 7. Canada is a federal system where federal, provincial, and territorial governments work in partnership while respecting each other's jurisdictions. Canadians want their governments to work cooperatively and with flexibility to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the federation. Canadians want their governments to work together particularly in the delivery of their social programs. Provinces and territories renew their commitment to work in partnership with the Government of Canada to best serve the needs of Canadians.
-

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROCESS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. Will be open to the general citizenry.
2. Efforts should be made to find creative ways of engaging Canadians in each provincial consultation process.
3. Governments should act as catalyst for the process of consultation.
4. It is acknowledged that provinces and territories may wish to have processes of consultation in stages but the advantage of a coordinated time frame is recognized.
5. Each province and territory is free to decide on the range or scope of consultation as well as the most appropriate mechanism for consultation.



Unity index



Canadian Unity

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON CANADIAN UNITY

Q. How will the unity issue affect me personally?

A. Every citizen has an interest in ensuring the strength of the province and the country. A strong, united Canada will pay dividends to all its citizens.

Q. Why are consultations being held?

A. The views of residents of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and the 10 provinces are very important in this issue. Input from citizens regarding the Calgary Declaration is required. The principles agreed to by Premiers in Calgary will need the support of the citizens of the Canada if they are to be effective.

Q. Why should I consider public consultations on national unity a priority at this time?

A. This issue is particularly important today since a Quebec election will likely take place in 1998 and, if the Parti Quebecois wins that election, a Quebec referendum will probably follow in 1999 or 2000.

There will be severe negative economic consequences for Canada if Quebec separation occurs. In order to ensure political and economic stability, Canada must remain a strong, united country.

Q. How are these principles different from the present situation?

A. There is nothing different. The principles simply give expression to what already exists and this is important.

Q. Will there be separate powers for any province?

A. No. Principle 6 states clearly that if the Constitution is amended to give a power to one province, that power must be available to all provinces.

Principle 5 recognizes that Quebec has a role to protect and develop its unique character, but

no special powers are associated with that role.

Q. In dealing with Quebec, why is "unique character" used instead of "distinct"?

A. The word "distinct" carries with it baggage from earlier discussions. It has taken on a negative meaning in many parts of Canada. Also, "distinct" suggests a "separateness" that is inconsistent with the concept of unity.

By contrast, "unique character" suggest something special which does not undermine unity. Therefore, "unique character" more accurately describes what is meant.



Unity index



Canadian Unity

Public Input

There are several ways you can participate in the national unity consultation process. All Members of the Legislative Assembly will be consulting with their constituents for about a six-week period. You should contact your local MLA to find out how you can participate in the discussions.

Contact Members of the Legislature

You can also communicate by email, telephone, fax or ordinary mail. Please indicate your name and constituency in all information so correspondence can be forwarded to your MLA who will compile the information in preparation for a debate in the Legislative Assembly later in December.

To send your comments on National Unity use the following email link or send them by fax or normal mail.

E-Mail	Special Committee on National Unity
Telephone	(867) 669-2200 or toll free at 1-800-661-0784
Facsimile	(867) 920-4735 or toll free at 1-800-661-0879

You can write to the committee at the following address:

Special Committee on Canadian Unity
c/o Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9



[Unity index](#)



Canadian Unity

A Public Consultation Project On National Unity

Residents of the Northwest Territories can participate in the public consultations on national unity by responding to the following questions.

Background information and further information about the consultations is available on other pages on this web site.

Please send in your comments before November 25, 1997.

Please share your views with us...

1. Overall do you support the framework?

		↑
		↓
←		→

2. What are the elements in the framework that you particularly like?

		↑
		↓
←		→


3. Are there any elements in the framework that concern you? Why?

		↑
		↓
←		→





4. Are there any other elements that you feel should be addressed?





5. Do you think the interests of Territorial residents are reflected in this framework?

6. Do you think the framework reflects aboriginal views and values on national unity? If not, how should they be reflected?





	
	
	

7. An important consideration in thinking about our future as a country is what it means to each of us to be a Canadian. What does it mean to you to be Canadian?

Optional:

Do you have any other comments you would like to share?

In which community do you live? _____

Do you want to share your comments with your MLA?

Yes No

My MLA is...

Please Select One



Unity index

Send technical questions to [WebMaster](#)
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Canadian Unity

Message Received

Thank you for participating in the public consultation on national unity. Your comments have been received and will assist the Special Committee on National Unity in the preparation of its report to be discussed at a one-day session in early December.



[Unity index](#)

Send technical questions to [WebMaster](#)
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Canadian Unity

Contacts for MLAs

This MLA Kit contains information you may need to conduct consultations on unity with your constituents.

The Special Committee will provide weekly updates to MLAs on the national consultation process with particular emphasis on how NWT and Aboriginal issues are being addressed.

Should you need additional information regarding the process or additional background information, please feel free to contact any of the following:

Hon. Don Morin
Premier
Chairman, Special Committee on National Unity
Phone: (867) 669-2311
Fax: (867) 873-0169

John Ningark
MLA, Natilikmiot
Member, Special Committee on National Unity
Phone: (867) 669-2298
Fax: (867) 873-0276

David Hamilton
Clerk, Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 669-2299 or toll-free 1-800-661-0784
Fax: (867) 920-4735

Website Inquiries:

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E-Mail: ronnab@assembly.gov.nt.ca

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E-Mail: unity@assembly.gov.nt.ca



Appendix Two

News Release from
November 18, 1997
Premiers Meeting
with National
Aboriginal Leaders



Canadian Unity

A Framework for Discussion on Relationships

November 18, 1997 - The five participating National Aboriginal Organizations, the Assembly of First Nations, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Metis National Council, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and the Native Women's Association of Canada, affirm the historic and primary fiduciary obligation of the Government of Canada to all Aboriginal Peoples, evidenced by Constitutional, Treaty and Aboriginal rights and invite the Premiers and Territorial Leaders to join with them.

The Aboriginal peoples of Canada have, and enjoy, the inherent right of self-government, a right recognized in S. 35 of the Canadian Constitution and in agreements between the federal government and institutions and governments of the Aboriginal Peoples and in tripartite and other agreements amongst federal, provincial, and Aboriginal governments and peoples.

Provincial, territorial, federal governments and Aboriginal governments and peoples should seek to work together to resolve issues of resource sharing and management in a manner which will promote economic and social development with certainty and public acceptance without extinguishing or diminishing Aboriginal Rights, Treaty Rights and Aboriginal Title.

Conference of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders wanted

Winnipeg, November 18, 1997 -- Premiers, Territorial Leaders and Leaders of the five National Aboriginal Organizations meeting in Winnipeg today called on the Prime Minister of Canada to hold a Conference of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders as soon as possible to discuss the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples which was released on November 3, 1996.

Premiers, Territorial Leaders and Aboriginal Leaders called upon the federal government to recognize their treaty, constitutional and fiduciary obligations towards Aboriginal peoples, to acknowledge its responsibility to provide programs and services for all Aboriginal people and to end its policies of off-loading these responsibilities to other orders of government.

It was further agreed that there be a meeting as soon as possible of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and National Aboriginal Leaders to address social issues related to Aboriginal peoples, a comprehensive process of social policy renewal, the needs of Aboriginal youth and issues related to the implications for Aboriginal people on administrative rebalancing of the Canadian federation. The Honourable Jane Stewart, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs today agreed to convene such a meeting.

At the meeting, the National Aboriginal Leaders presented to the Premiers and Territorial Leaders a consensus statement of the five organizations outlining framework of principles for a discussion of relationships between federal, provincial and territorial governments and Aboriginal governments and peoples (attached).

The National Aboriginal Leaders also expressed their serious concerns that certain references in the Calgary communiqué might undermine the position of Aboriginal peoples in confederation, as set out in the said Framework.

The Premiers and Territorial Leaders agreed to receive and consider the Framework, and refer it to the consultative or legislative processes under way in their jurisdictions, which are expected to result in

The re-balancing of Canadian federalism must always be undertaken and accomplished, in a manner which does not derogate from the Aboriginal and Treaty rights and jurisdictions of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. It also must not diminish, in any way, the fiduciary and Constitutional responsibilities of Canada and its capacity to honour its commitments and obligations to all Canadians, including the Aboriginal peoples. There must be a willingness to enter into partnerships rejecting federal off-loading to the provinces and to Aboriginal governments and peoples in favour, rather of joint efforts to maximize best possible uses of available resources.

Canada is a federal system in which federal, provincial, territorial governments and Aboriginal governments and peoples work in partnership while respecting each other's jurisdictions, rights and responsibilities. Nothing in the Calgary communiqué can minimize or derogate from that principle or from existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

References in the Calgary communiqué to Aboriginal peoples and cultures as one part of Canada's "gift of diversity" must not negate the uniqueness of the place of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, a relationship which finds affirmation in the Treaties and in Part II of the Canadian Constitution.

The Aboriginal peoples of Canada, the first peoples to govern this land, enjoy their own status and rights, including the equality of Aboriginal men and women, and have the right to ensure the integrity of their societies and to

resolutions before the spring of 1998.

The Premiers and Territorial Leaders confirmed their support for sections 35 and 25 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and Section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867, and acknowledged that in any future constitutional review process affecting Aboriginal rights and interests they will support the participation as equal partners of the five National Aboriginal Organizations.

This support is not meant to exclude the involvement of Aboriginal Leaders in other appropriate meetings of Premiers/Territorial Leaders on issues fundamental to the interests of Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal peoples of Canada have, and enjoy, the inherent right of self-government, a right recognized in S. 35 of the Canadian Constitution and in agreements between the federal government and institutions and governments of the Aboriginal Peoples and in tripartite and other agreements amongst federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments and peoples.

Provincial, territorial, federal governments and Aboriginal governments and peoples should seek to work together to resolve issues of resource sharing and management in a manner which will promote economic and social development with certainty and public acceptance without extinguishing or diminishing Aboriginal Rights, Treaty Rights and Aboriginal Title.

The re-balancing of Canadian federalism must always be undertaken and accomplished, in a manner which does not derogate from the Aboriginal and Treaty rights and jurisdictions of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. It also must not diminish, in any way, the fiduciary and Constitutional responsibilities of Canada and its capacity to honour its commitments and obligations to all Canadians, including the Aboriginal peoples. There must be a willingness to enter into partnerships rejecting federal off-loading to the provinces and to Aboriginal governments and peoples in favour, rather of joint efforts to maximize best possible uses of available resources.

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References in the Calgary communiqué to Aboriginal peoples and cultures as one part of Canada's "gift of diversity" must not negate the uniqueness of the place of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, a relationship which finds affirmation in the Treaties and in Part II of the Canadian Constitution.

The Aboriginal peoples of Canada, the first peoples to govern this land, enjoy their own status and rights, including the equality of Aboriginal men and women, and have the right to ensure the integrity of their societies and to strengthen their relationships with their lands.

strengthen their relationships with their lands. The role of Aboriginal peoples in the protection and development of their languages, cultures and identities is recognized and supported by Canadians.

All government must be committed to promoting and strengthening identifiable social, political and economic developments which will lead to improved education, housing and infrastructure and to stronger and healthier Aboriginal communities and people, particularly the young and those with special needs.

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Appendix Three
Status Report
on
Provincial-Territorial
National Unity
Consultations

Alberta

Consultations concluded on November 21. Assembly debate on a resolution is scheduled for December 8 - 11.

British Columbia

Consultations will conclude on December 31. A report to be submitted in February 1998.

Manitoba

An interim report is to be submitted by the end of December. Consultations will be completed by the end of January. Next steps to be determined.

New Brunswick

Consultations concluded on November 7. No date set for submission of a report to the Assembly.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Consultations are currently underway. No date set for submission of a report and Assembly debate.

Nova Scotia

A House Committee has been established; however, there are no details on its consultation process and schedule at this time.

Ontario

Consultations started on November 12. Premier Harris expects an interim report prior to meeting with First Ministers in January 1998.

Prince Edward Island

Consultations are underway. A report is expected during the Assembly's fall session.

Quebec

Quebec is not conducting consultations. A House of Commons motion passed on November 25 encourages the federal government to intervene and hold consultations.

Saskatchewan

Consultations concluded on November 28. A report and resolution are expected for consideration during the Assembly's spring session.

Yukon

Consultations are underway. There is no schedule at this time for reporting back to the Assembly.



Appendix Four
NWT Participation in
National Unity
and
Constitutional Reform Initiatives

Since the early 1980's the Northwest Territories Government and Legislative Assembly have been active in influencing the course of national unity and constitutional reform initiatives at the national level. In addition, Northwest Territories Aboriginal organizations have also been instrumental in ensuring that Aboriginal rights issues were addressed in what has been termed "constitutional rounds".

For example, during the "patriation round" in the late 1980's the Assembly established a Special Committee to lobby for the recognition of Aboriginal rights in the Constitution of Canada. While the GNWT did not participate in meetings of federal and provincial First Ministers and Ministers on patriation of the Constitution and the Assembly did not formally vote to adopt the Constitution, both contributed to ensuring that it contained references to the affirmation and protection of Aboriginal rights.

Next came the "Aboriginal round" from 1983 to 1987. The GNWT's Premier and Ministers participated with national Aboriginal leaders and the federal and provincial governments in a series of meetings directed toward recognizing the inherent right of self government for Aboriginal peoples. The meetings did not result in agreement on a constitutional amendment respecting self government; however, they did provide the NWT with its first opportunity to participate as an equal partner in the constitutional reform process.

In 1987, the "Meech Lake round" started with the Premiers from all provinces trying to come up with a formula to get Quebec to agree to the Constitution which was formally repatriated in 1982. The GNWT was excluded from most of the federal - provincial followup meetings which produced the Meech Lake Accord. The Assembly set up a Special Committee to lobby for changes to the Meech Lake Accord because for the first time, it allowed provinces to determine if a territory could become a province. The Special Committee also supported "distinct society" status for both Quebec and Canada's Aboriginal peoples. The Meech Lake Accord did not receive the support necessary to produce amendments to the Constitution.

In 1991, the federal government took the lead in what has been called the "Charlottetown round". The Assembly set up another Special Committee to guide NWT participation in the negotiations with the federal, provincial and territorial governments and national Aboriginal organizations. As a result of full status in these negotiations the NWT achieved almost all of its objectives on the status and role of the Assembly and GNWT in national constitutional reform and recognition of Aboriginal rights and self government issues. In October 1992, Canadians rejected the Charlottetown Accord in a national referendum.

From 1992 to the present, the Premiers and Ministers have represented NWT interests on national unity and constitutional reform initiatives in various intergovernmental forums, including the Annual Premiers Conferences, the Western Premiers Conferences and First Ministers Meetings.



Appendix Five
Draft National Unity Resolution
and
Explanatory Notes

Draft Resolution

Whereas all Canadians and their governments have a responsibility for preserving and promoting a strong and united Canada for the benefit of all Canadians in all regions from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic;

Whereas the peoples, lands and institutions of Canada's northern territories, including the future territory of Nunavut, comprise a dynamic and vital region of Canada;

Explanatory Notes

The first five paragraphs of this draft resolution contain issues and background relating to Northwest Territories' role in national constitutional processes over the past decade. While the issue of Quebec separatism is the primary issue challenging national unity at this time, maintaining unity requires on-going effort from all Canadians and their governments. Unity requires a complete vision of Canada and the North, along with all other regions, is an important part of Canada's future.

This paragraph affirms the Legislative Assembly's view that the North is an important region of Canada. In national affairs people often refer to four regions, namely the Atlantic region, Quebec, Ontario and the West. However, there are more than four regions. British Columbia is now seen as a region apart from the Prairie provinces. Regions are seen to have similar or common interests. In the national unity context regions were given some importance by the federal government in Bill C-110 which in effect gave each of five "regions" a veto over constitutional amendments. The North was not considered a region under this legislation.

Draft Resolution

Whereas efforts to promote and preserve national unity require the meaningful participation of all territorial governments in any processes directed at achieving unity;

Whereas the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly supports the negotiation and implementation of self-government for Aboriginal peoples in the territories, and elsewhere in Canada, to secure their Aboriginal and treaty rights, and Aboriginal peoples' full participation within the Canadian federation;

Explanatory Notes

It is very important that territorial governments and national Aboriginal organizations be full participants in any on-going unity processes to ensure that their constituents' interests are represented. In constitutional discussions between the provinces and the federal government surrounding the Meech Lake Accord from 1987 to 1990, territorial governments and national Aboriginal organizations were excluded even on matters of direct interest to them. In the Charlottetown Round of constitutional discussions in 1992, territorial governments and national Aboriginal organizations participated fully and made substantive contributions.

This paragraph reaffirms the commitment of the Legislative Assembly to the implementation of Aboriginal land claims agreements and the inherent right of self-government. This is an important aspect of constitutional development in the North and in Canada which is intended to lead to the full participation of Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian federation and in national unity processes. Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada are constitutionally protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. In addition, s. 35.1 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* contains a commitment for a constitutional conference between federal and provincial governments and Aboriginal peoples in the event that amendments are made to the provisions of the Constitution relating to Aboriginal peoples.

Draft Resolution

And Whereas the Northwest Territories has a unique character and status within the federation and expects a fair and equal opportunity to achieve the status of a full partner within the federation on equitable terms as referred to in the Quebec Resolutions of 1864 and the London Resolutions of 1866;

Be it therefore resolved that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories supports all efforts to secure the commitment of the people of all provinces and territories to the unity of Canada in accordance with the principles set out below:

- 1. The Aboriginal peoples of Canada, being the first peoples to inhabit and govern this land, have the inherent right to self-government to safeguard and develop their lands and resources, languages, cultures and traditions and to ensure the integrity of their societies.*

Explanatory Notes

This paragraph relates to an outstanding issue which has been part of the Northwest Territories national position since 1982. In 1982, the amending formulas under the Constitution of Canada gave the provinces a direct role in the evolution of territories to full provincehood. Provinces did not have this role prior to 1982, nor did other provinces face such barriers in becoming full partners in the federation. The Resolutions referred to in this paragraph were the original agreement that led to the creation of Canada in 1867. They stated that provision should be made "for the admission into the Confederation on equitable terms of...the Northwest Territory." One of Quebec's traditional demands has been for a veto over the creation of new provinces.

This paragraph is a commitment of the Legislative Assembly to support efforts to achieve national unity. The principles which follow this paragraph are only a draft for discussion purposes. They are based on, but not identical to, the framework agreed to by Premiers in Calgary in September, 1997.

This paragraph reflects the commitment of the Legislative Assembly to implementation of the inherent right of self-government as a very important means to preserve and promote the lands and resources, languages, cultures and traditions of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and to contribute to national unity.

Draft Resolution

2. *Canadians are committed to a united country to ensure a society in which all Canadians and their children have access to the benefit of Canada's prosperity, including quality health care, social services, education and employment opportunities.*

3. *The rights of Canadians are secured equally by the rule of law and should be implemented in a just, broad and liberal manner taking into account the spirit and intent of guarantees under the Constitution.*

Explanatory Notes

The United Nations has repeatedly identified Canada as the best country in the world in which to live. Social programs and sharing between "have" and "have not" regions have contributed to the welfare of Canadians throughout the country. Preserving a caring and prosperous Canada is a major objective of national unity. The separation of Quebec from Canada would have profound implications for the whole country.

This paragraph refers to the fact that all Canadians have rights guaranteed and protected by the Constitution, for example in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which is the supreme law of Canada. However, this does not mean that all rights are identical. Aboriginal peoples also have certain Aboriginal and treaty rights which have been recognized and affirmed by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The courts have said that rights are not absolute. Rights must be balanced and interpreted together so that they have meaning and purpose.

Draft Resolution

4. *All provinces are equal under the Constitution, and together with the territories, have equality of opportunity to develop their unique characters in partnership, while respecting each other's jurisdictions.*

5. *In the Canadian federal system, where respect for diversity underlies unity, the unique character of Quebec society, including its French speaking majority, its culture, its institutions, and its tradition of civil law, is fundamental to the well-being of Canada. Similarly, the well-being of Quebec is ensured by the legislature and government of Quebec having the ability to protect and develop the unique character of Quebec society within a united Canada.*

6. *A strong national government for Canada, and the historic flexibility of Canadians and their governments, remain essential elements of our ability to modify, adapt and renew our institutions and arrangements for the benefit of all Canadians.*

Explanatory Notes

This paragraph is seen as an important balance to the paragraph recognizing the unique character of Quebec society. Under the Constitution provinces all have the same status. There is no special status for any one province. Some provisions of the Constitution might apply differently to some provinces because of historical or other considerations, but the powers of the provinces are the same, as is their status within the federation. Western provinces in particular have resisted any constitutional amendments which might lead to different classes of provinces, or special powers for Quebec.

A key element of the framework for consultation agreed to by Premiers in Calgary was the idea that diversity can contribute to unity. The recognition of the unique character of Quebec society is seen by many to be an essential starting point in rebuilding relations with Quebecers and obtaining their commitment to Canada. This paragraph says that Quebec is important to Canada and equally, Canada is important to Quebec.

This paragraph reflects the view that most Canadians want a strong national government to be responsible for matters that affect all Canadians and that national unity cannot be achieved by dismantling the federal government. This paragraph also recognizes that while the federal government has a legitimate role in many programs and services, different approaches can be taken in different regions to best meet the needs of all Canadians.

Draft Resolution

7. Each government and legislature has, in a manner appropriate to each, a responsibility to ensure that these principles and precepts remain enduring features of Canada.

Explanatory Notes

All Canadians have a stake in national unity. Among other things, governments are elected to preserve peace, order and good government in Canada, and to prevent the destabilizing and potentially harmful events such as Quebec separation. Accommodating diversity is seen as one strategy for addressing separatism in Quebec and encouraging unity throughout Canada.

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Par sa nature et sa géographie, le Canada est un pays nordique. Il faut que les territoires du Nord, dont les deux nouveaux territoires qui seront créés en 1999, soient reconnus dans la résolution sur l'unité canadienne ; il faut des garanties pour les gouvernements territoriaux et leurs résidents continueront à faire partie du processus sur l'unité nationale.

À ce jour, il semble que les gouvernements fédéral et provinciaux soient d'accord pour que les territoires du Nord jouent un rôle par le biais de leurs gouvernements territoriaux. Le premier ministre et les ministres des T. N.-O. ont participé à toutes les rencontres officielles sur l'unité nationale des leaders politiques; des représentants des T. N.-O. participent à toutes les rencontres officielles avec leurs homologues provinciaux et territoriaux. Ce changement est apprécié, car dans le passé, les territoires étaient exclus des rencontres importantes sur l'unité nationale et la réforme constitutionnelle tenues par Ottawa et les provinces.



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d'accorder plus d'importance aux besoins
 sociaux des Canadiens; des craintes sont
 exprimées à l'effet que le processus de
 consultation ne produise pas de
 changements significatifs ou ne fasse pas
 progresser les choses.

Puis, on a posé la question suivante aux
 résidents du Nord : « *Manque-t-il des points?
 Lesquels?* » La réponse confirme les
 inquiétudes exprimées sur la nécessité de
 faire référence aux peuples autochtones et
 aux territoires dans une résolution sur l'unité
 nationale.

En réponse à la question : « *Selon vous, la
 Déclaration tient-elle compte des intérêts des
 gens du Nord?* », les deux-tiers des intéressés
 ont répondu par l'affirmative, le reste par la
 négative. En interprétant ces résultats, il faut
 noter que la plupart des personnes qui
 appuient la *Déclaration de Calgary* le font avec
 certaines réserves, alors que celles qui s'y
 opposent croient qu'il faut y apporter des
 changements fondamentaux.

La question : « *Que signifie être Canadien ou
 Canadienne pour vous?* » a suscité toutes
 sortes de réponses de la part des résidents,
 tant de ceux qui appuient que de ceux qui
 rejettent la *Déclaration de Calgary*. En plus des
 caractéristiques énumérées aux points 1, 2, 3
 et 4, les réponses font référence au Canada
 comme un pays où sont offertes bien des
 opportunités, où existent la liberté et la
 liberté d'expression et où il n'y a pas
 d'oppression; le Canada est le meilleur
 endroit au monde pour vivre, car c'est un
 pays vivant, sain, tolérant, compatissant,
 avec une population multiculturelle; le



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En ce qui concerne les consultations avec les leaders autochtones des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, le Sommet autochtone a fait savoir au ministre Antoine qu'il considère que le processus de consultation et de résolution est trop rapide; cependant il fournit certaines propositions sur le contenu de la résolution. Le Sommet respecte le fait qu'il s'agit d'un projet de l'Assemblée législative et croit que les résidents et les organismes de l'ouest devraient exprimer leurs points de vue et leurs inquiétudes à leurs députés et au Comité spécial.

La Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated a exprimé son appui à la résolution.

En bref, le Comité spécial reconnaît que les résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest n'ont pas répondu en grand nombre aux consultations sur l'unité nationale.

Néanmoins, les réponses au questionnaire (environ une quarantaine) et les réactions du public aux rencontres dans les communautés constituent une importante contribution qui confirme certaines craintes du Comité spécial concernant la *Déclaration de Calgary* et permettent de donner une orientation à la résolution des Territoires du Nord-Ouest sur l'unité nationale. Le Comité spécial continuera d'examiner et d'évaluer les réponses qui devraient continuer de lui parvenir.



ბილტვილი უბნის დაცვა

დაცვის გეგმის შესახებ

ბილტვილი უბნის დაცვის გეგმის შესახებ დადგენილი პირობების დაცვასთან დაკავშირებით განხილვის მიზნით მოხდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა.

შედეგად, დაცვის გეგმის მიხედვით, რეგიონის (არსებულ) დაცვის გეგმის დასრულების შემდეგ, დაცვის გეგმის მიხედვით, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა.

დასრულების შემდეგ, შედეგად დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა, დასრულების შემდეგ, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა, დასრულების შემდეგ, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა.

დასრულების შემდეგ, შედეგად დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა, დასრულების შემდეგ, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა, დასრულების შემდეგ, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა.

დასრულების შემდეგ, შედეგად დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა, დასრულების შემდეგ, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა, დასრულების შემდეგ, დასრულდება ორგანიზაციული შეხვედრა.

Recommandations du Comité spécial

The Special Committee has formulated its recommendations taking into account the following considerations:

The residents of the Territories of the North-West and the indigenous leaders are all of the opinion that, in what relates to the indigenous peoples, the text of the *Declaration of Calgary* needs to be revised.

The text of the *Declaration of Calgary* making reference to the status of the territories of Canada and to the role they play in the process of national unity needs to be reinforced, particularly with the imminent creation of Nunavut.

Étant donné que l'Assemblée législative sera la première au Canada à adopter une résolution, lorsque les provinces et les territoires prépareront leurs rapports et leurs résolutions sur l'unité nationale, ils tiendront compte des positions adoptées par les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

The *Declaration of Calgary* and the resolutions adopted by the legislative assemblies provincial and territorial must clearly reflect the spirit and the intention of the provisions of the Canadian Constitution in what concerns the rights and freedoms of Canadians, the rights of the Nations indigenous and the status of the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

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የጥያቄው ለማረጋገጥ ለሚችሉ ሁሉም ጉዳዮች ላይ የሚከተሉትን ጥያቄዎችን ያካትታል፡-

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6. የጥያቄው ለማረጋገጥ ለሚችሉ ሁሉም ጉዳዮች ላይ የሚከተሉትን ጥያቄዎችን ያካትታል፡-

7. የጥያቄው ለማረጋገጥ ለሚችሉ ሁሉም ጉዳዮች ላይ የሚከተሉትን ጥያቄዎችን ያካትታል፡-

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9. የጥያቄው ለማረጋገጥ ለሚችሉ ሁሉም ጉዳዮች ላይ የሚከተሉትን ጥያቄዎችን ያካትታል፡-

10. የጥያቄው ለማረጋገጥ ለሚችሉ ሁሉም ጉዳዮች ላይ የሚከተሉትን ጥያቄዎችን ያካትታል፡-

Une réponse anticipée de l'Assemblée législative fournira également un appui solide en faveur de la participation des Autochtones au processus de l'unité nationale et soulignera le besoin d'adopter des résolutions sur la question qui reflètent mieux les caractéristiques propres aux Autochtones du Canada, y compris leurs droits et leurs intérêts.

The Special Committee expects that the importance of consultations on national unity will increase as the provinces and the Native Nations define their positions and discuss resolutions. It is too early to predict what will be the result of this process; however, it is possible that the results of the process will form the basis for a constitutional amendment that would be applied to the Canadian Constitution in respect of Quebec, as well as other measures aimed at promoting national unity and strengthening the federation. As the debate on national unity and the strengthening of the federation continues over the next few months, it will be important for the residents of the Northwest Territories to know the position of the legislative Assembly.

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À partir des points mentionnés ci-dessus,
le Comité spécial recommande:

premièrement

que l'Assemblée législative débattenne de la
résolution sur l'unité nationale contenue
dans le présent rapport;

deuxièmement

que la résolution serve de lignes
directrices au premier ministre, aux ministres
et aux représentants du gouvernement dans
les futures délibérations sur l'unité nationale
et le renforcement de la fédération
auxquelles participeront les gouvernements
fédéral, provinciaux et les Nations
autochtone;

troisièmement

que le mandat du Comité spécial sur
l'unité nationale soit prolongé afin qu'il
puisse suivre de près le processus de l'unité
nationale, garder l'Assemblée législative
informée et faire des recommandations sur la
participation et les objectifs des T. N.-O.

6. ነግሥት ጌራርቲ ለደብዳቤ ጌራርቲ፣
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ბილიტის ჯიბის ორგანიზაციის
 ბილიტის
 ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის

Comité spécial
 sur l'unité
 nationale

ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის
 ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის
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 ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის
 ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის

Rapport à l'Assemblée législative
 sur
 les consultations tenues aux T. N.-O.
 concernant l'unité nationale
 et le renforcement de la fédération
 canadienne

ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის
 ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის
 ბილიტის ორგანიზაციის

L'hon. Don Morin, député
 Président
 le 2 décembre 1997



ልጋብሮጋር ስልጠናዎች ለግብርና

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- à mesure que le débat sur l'unité nationale se poursuivra au cours des mois prochains, il sera important pour les résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest de connaître la position de l'Assemblée législative;
- une résolution de l'Assemblée législative accordera au premier ministre, aux ministres et aux représentants du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest le mandat dont ils ont besoin pour pouvoir négocier de façon continue avec les gouvernements fédéral et provinciaux et les Nations autochtones;
- que le mandat du Comité spécial soit prolongé afin qu'il puisse suivre de près le processus de l'unité nationale, soumettre des rapports à l'Assemblée législative et faire des recommandations en vue de protéger et de promouvoir les objectifs des T. N.-O.



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Suite à l'engagement pris au nom des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest à Calgary, le 14
septembre dernier, l'Assemblée a mis sur
pied un Comité spécial sur l'unité nationale
pour coordonner et suivre de près le
processus de consultation aux Territoires du
Nord-Ouest, pour fournir des mises à jour et
une analyse sur le processus de
consultation, pour préparer un rapport sur
les consultations tenues aux Territoires du
Nord-Ouest et pour recommander une
résolution devant être étudiée par
l'Assemblée législative.

Le présent rapport a pour but d'informer
l'Assemblée législative et les résidents des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest sur la façon dont
les consultations ont été menées dans les
T. N.-O., sur les résultats des consultations
et sur les recommandations concernant la
façon dont l'Assemblée législative peut
exprimer la position des T. N.-O. par le biais
d'une résolution sur l'unité nationale.

Le rapport contient aussi plus
d'information sur le projet de consultation
sur l'unité nationale, dont le dernier compte
rendu sur ce qui se passe dans d'autres
provinces et territoire, sur la façon dont on
tient compte des intérêts des Autochtones,
sur le rôle des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
dans les précédentes initiatives sur l'unité
nationale et la réforme constitutionnelle.

L'Assemblée législative des Territoires du
Nord-Ouest est la première au Canada à
recevoir un rapport sur les consultations
tenues sur l'unité nationale et à débattre
d'une résolution à cet effet.



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Deuxièmement, pour promouvoir l'unité nationale et renforcer la fédération canadienne, il faut tenir compte des réalités historiques et actuelles des Nations autochtones canadiennes, de leur statut en tant que peuple fondateur de ce pays et de leurs droits, en vertu de la Constitution, concernant le territoire, les traités et l'autonomie gouvernementale.

Le Comité spécial reconnaît que même si les T. N.-O. peuvent apporter une grande contribution en ce qui concerne les réalités historiques et actuelles des Autochtones, il faut que les peuples autochtones et leurs leaders, à l'échelle du pays, donnent leur point de vue, lors de la consultation, et que ce point de vue soit reflété dans les résolutions des provinces et des territoires.

Le Comité spécial est heureux qu'une entente ait été conclue le 18 novembre, à Winnipeg, entre les premiers ministres et les leaders autochtones, à l'effet de la création d'un document de base sur les relations entre les gouvernements fédéral, provinciaux, territoriaux et autochtones concernant le processus de consultation sur l'unité nationale.

Troisièmement, pour promouvoir l'unité nationale et le renforcement de la fédération, il faut tenir compte du fait que le Canada est composé de provinces et de territoires et que les territoires du Nord sont une région unique de ce pays.

