

DIAND/Health Canada/Newfoundland Meeting January 11, 2000

Participants:

Mike Samson, Nfld DM of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs
Georges Bedard, federal sr. negotiator on the Innu land claim
Ian Gray, DIAND Atlantic
Eric Maldoff, special advisor to Minister Nault on the Labrador Innu

The following are the key decisions and follow-up from the meeting:

1. A recommendation will be made to Cabinet, perhaps through the DIAND MC on Labrador, to suspend indefinitely the Innu land claim negotiations. It will also be recommended that the \$5 million p.a. spent on the negotiations be reallocated to social programming in the Innu communities and that this be supported by an aggressive communications program.
2. The priority "social programs" include: safety of the children, treatment for families, education, economic development, registration/reserves, relocation and infrastructure/leadership.
3. The MC also to recommend that a formal fed/prov coordinating structure be established and that there be one joint fed/prov coordinator/spokesperson on the Labrador file. It is expected that Minister Nault will ask Eric Maldoff to take on this role.
4. To ensure governments are more proactive and assertive in services and accountability of new and existing programs, long-term fed/prov plans are to be developed quickly in key areas (eg. ec dev, education, healing). Parallel to this officials will go through an exercise to clearly identify what existing fed/prov program funding is supposed to be buying. The intention is to give these plans and outcome expectations to the Innu as guidelines and, if they object, to challenge them to design better programs.
5. 3rd party management for both communities is to be announced by DIAND on Jan. 24. Al Garman will look into the possibilities of including the DIAND-appointed 3rd party manager as signator to the 2001/02 HC contribution agreements (Eric Maldoff mentioned that David Dodge had agreed to this in a meeting a short while ago). Furthermore, an Innu-specific accountability regime is to be developed which focuses on measurable outcomes for programs.
6. I was advised there is no need to delay our planned audits of the two communities; CAC will be advised.
7. Further consideration will be given to the utility of commissioning a formal enquiry into child sexual abuse in the Innu communities.

The same participants will reconvene in Ottawa on Jan 23 with the addition of communications folks from DIAND, HC and Nfld. to discuss progress, refine issues to be included in the MC, and start developing the communications strategy, which will be crucial.

A fed/prov/Innu meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 31 at which time the Innu will be told:

- (i) there will be no reserve at the current Davis Inlet site - just one at Sango Bay;
- (ii) there will be no tax remission at Davis Inlet - just at the Sango site;
- (iii) there will be no buy-out of Innu "property owners" in Davis Inlet - just of non-Innu.