

CONFERENCE CALL**COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS**
OCTOBER 20, 1992**Purpose:**

The purpose of the conference call was to follow up on a ^{October}~~September~~ 10, 1992 joint AFN/DIAND meeting where Davis Inlet was one of the topics discussed. Staff of DIAND and the AFN were requested to jointly identify and explore opportunities to assist community leaders at Davis Inlet.

In attendance:**In person:**

Catherine Bragg, Director,
Policy Research Directorate, HQ.
DIAND.

Peter Garrow, Director,
Consultation Directorate, HQ.
DIAND.

Denis Chatain,
Chief Federal Negotiator,
Innu Nation Claim, HQ.
DIAND.

Richard Jock, Director,
Health Commission, Assembly
of First Nations.

Brian Bedwell,
Consultation Directorate HQ.
DIAND.

Via telephone:

John Brown, Director,
Inter-Governmental Affairs,
Atlantic Region.

Donald MacDonald,
Manager of Comprehensive Claims,
Atlantic Region.

Highlights:

Peter Garrow initiated discussion by advising that as a general principle for proceeding, any possible outcome of these deliberations would be conditional on the support of the Davis Inlet leadership. In discussions to-date, it was also agreed to separate the issues of the relocation of the community from those

related to dealing with the social circumstances of the community.

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Participants were advised that funds to allow the community to relocate were currently being sought by the Atlantic Regional Office. Denis Chatain advised that there was community support for a relocation.

Reference was made to a proposal to hold a "symposium" to explore options for community healing. Specific issues were mentioned including support for the leadership of Davis Inlet and programs to combat alcohol and substance abuse.

Additional discussion included the merits of identifying a third party to facilitate communication and the need to flesh out the meaning of a "communities in crisis" policy. The parties agreed to return to the topic of involving a third party at a later time.

In terms of actual numbers, John Brown advised that community participation with the regional office to-date was considered low. Apparently two or three community people are the main contacts. Denis Chatain suggested that a number of non-Indian professionals residing in the community may also be willing to assist if requested.

It was speculated that a new leadership may emerge as the community adjusts to the realities of a relocation.

A number of considerations were put forward with respect to the proposal to hold a symposium. These included:

- it may be useful to involve individuals from communities that have turned around;
- the AFN/DIAND could act as a broker for getting people together; a number of activities could proceed at the same time with the AFN/DIAND working as a coordinator;
- rather than have Davis Inlet leaders attend a symposium where people "talk at them", the leadership could visit other communities that have undergone a healing process.
The symposium could be held without the attendance of community members who may be uncomfortable with such an event. However, the symposium could bring together government and private resource people who may be in a position to provide assistance;
- community leaders are hesitant to travel outside of their own community and it might therefore be preferable to choose

communities to visit that are geographically close and of the same cultural affiliation.

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In summary, the option of holding a joint AFN/DIAND symposium was viewed as an event the community may not wish to attend. However, it would provide a useful forum for appropriate government and private agencies to identify the issues and develop strategies for the community to consider.

Catherine Bragg suggested that a workplan should take into consideration three areas as follows:

- 1) identify a community or communities who have faced similar problems and overcome them to act as a guide or mentor for Davis Inlet;
- 2) hold a symposium to identify the issues and develop possible options for the community to consider;
- 3) introduce Davis Inlet to the mentor community.

Participants recognized a need to move as quickly as possible in response to requests from Davis Inlet leadership.

John Brown mentioned that he was planning to travel to Labrador in the near future. He will convey any new information as a result of a meeting with Katie Rich and Peter Penashue. Al Gorman, Health and Welfare Canada, is also expected to be present at the meeting.

Don McDonald relayed that the province, on a number of occasions, has expressed an interest in lending assistance. However, they appear to be at a loss as to the sort of support to provide. If required, the region would approach the province for assistance on specific issues.

The conference call ended with the identification of communities considered candidates for a mentor community for Davis Inlet. Communities mentioned included, New Osnaburgh, Norway House and northern Quebec Cree communities.