

INTRODUCTION

JOE SAWCHUK, EDITOR

With this issue the Canadian Journal of Native Studies introduces a section devoted specifically to questions of commentary, criticism and discussion. It is an attempt at creating an exchange of ideas between people from various backgrounds and different parts of the country, commenting on subjects of common interest in the field of native studies.

For the first column, the editor has invited comments from various scholars and researchers on some different aspects of land claims research, such as treaty and aboriginal rights, problems in formulating land claims policies, and experiences with government negotiators. Topics which might form a nucleus for future discussions could include such things as education policy; Indian women's status; a review of the research design and policy design behind such DIAND studies as Indian Conditions: a Survey; the role of the Native community and Native political organizations in designing future research programs, or exercising control over the type of research to be done with Native populations; entrenchment of aboriginal rights in the Canadian constitution, and so on.

However, these are only suggestions. While the editor will from time to time invite comments on specific topics from individuals, statements on any suitable subject, or response to comments that have appeared in this section are always welcomed. Statements can be up to 20 typed, double-spaced pages in length, and should be sent to the Discussions Editor, c/o The Canadian Journal of Native Studies. It should be noted that the statements and opinions appearing in this section will be those of the authors, and will not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial staff of CJNS.